

Iranian Majlis OKs ministers

LONDON, Dec. 15 (R) — Iran's Majlis (parliament) today approved the nomination of two hard-line Islamic fundamentalists as ministers of foreign affairs and interior. Tehran radio, monitored by Reuters, said Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati was confirmed as foreign minister and Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri as interior minister. The foreign affairs portfolio had been held by Prime Minister Hossein Mousavi, while the interior ministry was left vacant by the resignation of Kamaladdin Nik-Ravesh at the week-end. Dr. Velayati, 36, a U.S.-educated paediatrician, was President Ali Khamenei's first choice as prime minister. But the Majlis rejected him on the grounds that there was insufficient evidence he had taken part in the fight to overthrow the Shah's regime.

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'Autonomy' talks resume in Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec. 15 (R) — High-level talks between Israel and Egypt went ahead according to schedule today despite Egypt's anger over the annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights. Negotiations on Palestinian 'autonomy' in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip continued in Tel Aviv and were expected to end on Thursday as planned, Israeli officials said.

Mitterrand is OK

PARIS, Dec. 15 (R) — President Francois Mitterrand today published a bulletin on his health aimed at putting an end to widespread reports that he was seriously ill. The bulletin, following a medical check-up last month, concluded that after six months in office "the president is in a very satisfactory state of health."

London bomb intended for Iranians

LONDON, Dec. 15 (R) — A bomb which wrecked a car in London on Sunday, killing two men inside and wounding a third, may have been intended for supporters of the late Shah of Iran who were meeting in Hyde Park, a British newspaper said today. The bomb exploded a few hundred metres from where a former senior Iranian army officer was giving a speech critical of the government of Ayatollah Khomeini, the Guardian newspaper said. It said the two fatalities, both Iranian, were killed when the bomb they were priming blew up in their faces. The third man was still unconscious in hospital.

Cypriot visits Iraq

NICOSIA, Dec. 15 (A.P.) — President Spyros Kyprianou will fly to Iraq for an official visit, Dec. 20-22, it was announced officially here today. The two countries, both members of the Non-aligned group of nations maintain close friendly relations, with Cyprus obtaining most of its oil imports from Iraq.

Ghali visits Sudan

CAIRO, Dec. 15 (R) — Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali will visit Sudan for three days from tomorrow, foreign ministry officials said today.

Numeiri: There isn't enough U.S. help

KUWAIT, Dec. 14 (A.P.) — Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri was quoted in a newspaper interview here today as saying "there is satisfactory American contribution to the arming of the Sudanese armed forces, though I cannot say it is sufficient."

Armenians protest

PARIS, Dec. 15 (R) — Young Armenian militants temporarily occupied the Paris office of the airline Swissair today in protest against the prosecution in Switzerland of an Armenian accused of attempting to murder a Turkish diplomat. The youths, a dozen members of the Armenian liberation movement, told reporters their action was a non-violent demonstration in support of the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA). They withdrew after 90 minutes and police did not intervene.

Kuwait approves loan to Iraq

KUWAIT, Dec. 15 (R) — Kuwait's parliament today approved a \$2 billion loan to Iraq to repair damage caused in its war with Iran, parliamentary sources said. The loan brings to \$6 billion credits by Kuwait to Iraq since the war began 14 months ago, they said.

King receives Yamani, Shirawi, Chadian minister, and ILO official

AMMAN, Dec. 15 (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court today Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani and Bahraini Minister of Industrial Development Yousef Al Shirawi, who are members of the board of trustees of the University of Jordan.

Sheikh Yamani and Mr. Shirawi praised the educational progress achieved by Jordan under the King's leadership, as well as the steps made by the University of Jordan in producing qualified people capable of serving their nation.

The meeting was attended by Chief of the Royal Court Ahmad Al Lawzi, who is also chairman of the board of trustees of the University of Jordan, and University of Jordan President Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali.

ILO official visits

King Hussein also received this afternoon International Labour Office Secretary General Francis Blanchard. During the meeting they discussed relations between Jordan and the office.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Blanchard said that his discussions with the King had dealt with two matters: the improvement of the conditions of Arab workers in the occupied territories, which he described as being "far from satisfactory," and the problem of labour migration to the Gulf countries.

Mr. Blanchard said that he had sensed that the King was both sensitive to and concerned about these problems. The full interview will be published in Thursday's Jordan Times.

Discussion also dealt with Jordan's proposals on the technical support rendered by the International Labour Office to developing countries in light of the plan presented by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in 1977, to set up an international fund for labour compensation. The meeting was attended by Minister of Labour Jawad Al Anani.

Chadian message

King Hussein also received at the Royal Court today Chadian Minister of State for Rural Development and Animal Wealth Mhammad Fakki, who conveyed a message from Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei, dealing with recent developments in Chad and ways to develop relations and cooperation between the two countries.

King telephones Bahraini emir

AMMAN, Dec. 15 (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein last night telephoned Bahraini Emir Sheikh-Issa bin Salman Al Khalifah to convey his strong condemnation and denunciation of the suspect actions which an outlaw group, supported by the aggressive regime in Iran, wanted to carry out in Bahrain.

King Hussein stressed Jordan's support for Bahrain against the elements of evil and sabotage that wanted to harm Bahrain's security and stability. The King also expressed Jordan's stand by its brothers in protecting the dignity and lands of the Arabs.

Arafat made honorary citizen of Athens

ATHENS, Dec. 15 (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat, visiting Greece on a three-day official visit, was today made an honorary citizen of Athens, Mayor Dimitrios Beis said.

Mr. Arafat arrived yesterday at the invitation of Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu. The agenda includes discussions on upgrading the present PLO information office in Athens to diplomatic status.

The PLO leader opened talks with Mr. Papandreu last night and continued them today with the participation of the two undersecretaries of foreign affairs, Karolos Papoulias and Anastakis Fotilas. The talks end tomorrow and a final communique



Elevated view of collapsed five-storey Iraqi embassy in Beirut after a powerful explosion destroyed it Tuesday. (A.P. wirephoto).

Explosives blast Iraqi embassy in Beirut; heavy loss of life reported

BEIRUT, Dec. 15 (A.P.) — The five-storey Iraqi embassy was destroyed here today in the explosion of a bomb-laden car that was piloted through a hail of machine-gun bullets before detonating near the building, police said.

Police said 20 people died and more than 30 suffered wounds, though checks with hospitals tallied four dead and more than 50 with wounds from the midday blast that crumpled the steel and concrete, seafront structure in West Beirut.

Lebanese state radio reported 10 died today and more than 80 sustained wounds. None claimed responsibility, though Lebanese-based private armies loyal to Iran and Iraq have been fighting one another here since the spring of 1980, several months before the Iran-Iraq war erupted. Since the start of the war, more than 100 people have perished in battles between militias loyal to Iraq or Iran.

"The window was blown out and pieces of glass came down on our heads," said 12-year-old Ahmad Omari, who was caught in his classroom at a school near the Iraqi embassy, and suffered head cuts.

The streets of West Beirut emptied almost immediately with people rushing to their homes, apprehensive the bombing will trigger militia fighting or reprisal

explosions. A police spokesman who refused to be identified in compliance with department rules said the suicide bomber sped his vehicle past the gate of the year-old embassy villa and accelerated past guards who loosed machinegun fire at the car.

King condemns embassy attack

AMMAN, Dec. 15 (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein telephoned Iraqi President Saddam Hussein this afternoon to express his strong denunciation and condemnation of the attack on the Iraqi embassy in Beirut. The King also expressed his condolences and those of the Jordanian people to the families of the attack victims.

King Hussein asserted to President Hussein that "those behind the attack are totally void of any ethics, and work against Arab interests."

It was unclear whether the car sped to the glass-enclosed entrance to the embassy or went down a ramp leading to a basement garage where Lebanese military sources said the Iraqis kept ammunition.

The explosion was heard for

miles. It parted the structure with an up-and-down rip forcing the embassy to collapse into itself as it imploded.

"They had wounds from being crushed or multiple shrapnel all over their bodies," said Dr. Mahdi Budayr at the Berbir Medical Centre, where seven victims were treated.

"Part of the building fell onto his head," remarked a young woman who watched as her fiancé, an Iraqi attaché, was wheeled unconscious from the operating room at a Beirut hospital.

Ambassador Abdul Razzak Mohammad Lafta was treated for a leg wound at the American University hospital, where one of his bodyguards who refused to identify himself said, "thank god he is alright."

Three Iraqi embassy employees have been assassinated in Lebanon since September of 1980, as was the head of the Iranian students' association here. The offices of Iraq's national Rafidein Bank in Beirut was bombed last year, along with the Lebanese branches of the Iraqi transportation company, Iraqi Airways and the Iraqi news agency.

Iran Air's Beirut offices were bombed in September of 1980, and attackers lobbed explosives into the facilities here of Iranian radio and television.

New U.N. Secretary-general sworn in

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 15 (A.P.) — Javier Perez de Cuellar of Peru formally was elected by the General Assembly today to become the fifth U.N. secretary-general. The 57-nation body, following past tradition, acted by acclamation.

The 61-year-old Peruvian diplomat, whose nomination by the 15-nation Security Council last Friday broke a prolonged election deadlock, will succeed Mr. Kurt Waldheim on Jan. 1. He will be the first Latin American in the five-year post.

Under U.N. rules, the General Assembly would have been required to vote on the council's nominee by secret ballot if any of its 157 members had so requested. The lack of such a request indicated general satisfaction among the predominantly Third World members of the assembly in the choice of an experienced diplomat from the southern hemisphere. Three of the past four secretaries-

general have been Europeans. The only exception was U Thant of Burma, Mr. Waldheim's predecessor.

General Assembly President Ismat Kittani of Iraq, with Mr. Waldheim seated beside him on the rostrum, suggested that Mr. Perez de Cuellar's election be by acclamation in view of the council's nomination and the "wishes of many delegations."

The suggestion was greeted by general applause and Mr. Kittani rapped his gavel and said, "so decided."

Mr. Perez de Cuellar was then escorted to the podium and was sworn in by Mr. Kittani. There was renewed applause when Mr. Perez de Cuellar completed the oath of office by pledging "not to seek or accept instructions with regard to the execution of my duties from any government or authority external to the United Nations."

Mintoff returned to power for 3rd term

VALLETTA, Malta, Dec. 15 (A.P.) — Dom Mintoff, who became Europe's most durable democratically elected premier in last weekend's election, will seek France's support to guarantee the neutrality of his strategic Mediterranean island, Labour Party officials said today.

Mr. Mintoff, 65, was returned to power for another five years after his Labour Party captured 34 of the parliament's 65 seats. While ballot counting continued in a military barracks near this palm studded tourist haven, Mr. Mintoff's Nationalist opposition refused to concede defeat.

Nationalist newspapers claimed the party had polled 51 per cent of the island's 238,000 voters. A complicated system of preferential and crossover voting allocated 31 seats to the Nationalists, headed by pro-Western lawyer Eddie Fenech Adami, who had vowed to push for Malta's entry in the European Common Market. Complete official results were expected late tonight.

Party officials said French President Francois Mitterrand would be visiting Malta at the start of 1982 and that the French were expected to support a neutrality pact signed by Italy and Malta earlier this year.

The pact was drawn up after Mr. Mintoff's friendship with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi floundered in 1980 when a Libyan gunboat prevented a Maltese-authorized oil drilling rig from exploring the south side of the island.

Security Council takes no action

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 15 (R) — The U.N. Security Council last night deferred immediate action on a Syrian request for a debate on Israel's new law annexing the Golan Heights.

Syrian Ambassador Dia Al Fattal told a press conference that Syria wanted the council to impose sanctions on Israel unless it rescinded the law, rushed through the Knesset (parliament) yesterday, within a week.

Council members conferred informally on their programme but took no action on Syria's request. Diplomatic sources said the United States sought more time to obtain details of Israel's action, including the text of the Israeli law.

Israeli forces alerted as world raps Begin's move to annex Golan Heights

TEL AVIV, Dec. 15 (R) — Israeli forces went on alert on the Golan Heights today amid mounting international criticism of Israel's decision to annex the strategic border region.

Military sources said troops in the mountains overlooking Galilee were closely watching Syrian movements across the ceasefire lines.

Defence ministry officials said the chief of staff, Gen. Rafael Eitan, had been recalled from a visit to Egypt to keep an eye on the situation.

Israeli leaders meanwhile appeared unconcerned about criticism at home and abroad over the legislation, rushed through parliament last night, annexing the territory which Israel seized from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war.

The three-paragraph law read out to the Knesset (parliament) by Prime Minister Menachem Begin

Jordan deplors Israeli move as expansionist step

AMMAN, Dec. 15 (Petra) — Jordan today condemned and denounced the annexation of the occupied Golan Heights as "another step in the implementation of Israel's aggressive and expansionist policy."

A statement issued by the Jordanian government said the Israeli decision yesterday to apply Israeli law to the Golan Heights, occupied by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war, "practically means the annexation of this Arab territory to Israel."

"This decision comes in the framework of the aggressive and expansionist policy which has been practised by the successive Israeli governments," the statement said.

The statement blamed the deteriorating Arab situation and the absence of clear Arab vision for bringing the Arab World to the point of "ignoring the real danger and wasting efforts in side differences."

The statement called on the international community in general, and those countries which can influence world peace in particular, to "shoulder the responsibility of deterring Israel from going ahead with the implementation of its schemes that contradict all resolutions adopted by the world community for achieving just and lasting peace in the Middle East."

The statement said that this new Israeli move is another expansionist step aimed at usurping Arab lands and rights which started with the occupation of Palestine in 1948 and continued with the occupation of more Arab lands in 1967; Judaisation of the Arab city of Jerusalem; construction of Israeli settlements; planning for the Med-Dead canal; bombing of the Iraqi nuclear installations; violation of Arab airspace; continued aggression on Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance; inhuman practices against the Palestinian people under occupation with the aim of applying the autonomy plot; and with entrenching occupation and annexation of Arab lands.

The statement said that His Majesty King Hussein has warned against the seriousness of what is happening and pointed out the need to confront effectively the Israeli designs. The statement added that King Hussein also pointed out that the survival of the Arab Nation and the preservation of its supreme interests require the strengthening of Arab solidarity; joint Arab action; building Arab coherent strength; and pooling all the nation's vast resources for the battle of defending the Arab Nation's existence, fate and future generations.

The statement called on the international community to consider urgently the serious consequences resulting from the Israeli concept of peace in the area — a concept based on the usurpation of Arab rights and lands. It said this concept constitutes a "constant threat to peace and stability of the area's states and peoples, and consequently, to the security and stability of the world."

Mubarak denounces Israeli move

CAIRO, Dec. 15 (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said today Israel's formal annexation of the Golan Heights was an obstruction to peace in the Middle East. Asked by reporters today if he considered the Israeli action, which has been severely condemned by Egypt, as a slap in the face, President Mubarak said: "I don't think it is a slap to us at all." He said that yesterday's Egyptian statement, describing the Israeli move as a blatant violation of the Camp David peace accords between Cairo and Tel Aviv, was the strongest issued so far by an Arab state. Western diplomats in Cairo said the annexation had presented Mr. Mubarak, who took over the presidency in October when Anwar Sadat was assassinated, with his first major foreign policy dilemma and given Arabs a fresh challenge.

extended Israeli law, jurisdiction and administration to the Golan Heights.

Previously the region had been classed as occupied Arab territory like the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Begin said his government made the decision after giving up hope of imminent peace with Syria, but the timing of the surprise move was a subject of intense debate in Israel.

An aide of the prime minister denied press reports that it had been a response to recent U.S. policies such as the sale of warplanes to Saudi Arabia.

The aide said there had been two principal motives. One was the failure of U.S. special envoy Philip Habib to secure removal of Syrian anti-aircraft missiles from Lebanon. The other was a reported, statement by Syrian President Hafez Al Assad that Syria would never recognise Israel.

Former chief of staff Mordechai Gur meanwhile accused Defence Minister Ariel Sharon of trying to goad Syria into a war.

In a radio interview today, Gen. Gur stood by a statement he made yesterday to a meeting of the opposition Labour Party at which

he said: "We are being asked to give legitimacy to the madness of Sharon. Sharon wants war with the Syrians at no matter what cost."

But Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir told a radio interviewer that the purpose of the Golan law was to give the region's inhabitants, mostly Druze tribesmen, a feeling that they were part of Israel and to "persuade the world that Golan was in fact part of Israel."

"We must ensure our national interests, even at the price of differences with the United States," Mr. Shamir said.

Israeli radio reported that U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis had protested vigorously by telephone about the annexation bill. But Israeli officials shrugged off international condemnation.

The newspaper Maariv said the legislation represented the will of the public while another newspaper, Yedioth Ahronot, said it had to be rushed through to forestall foreign opposition.

On the Golan Heights, United Nations observers positioned between Israeli and Syrian forces viewed the development with unease. "We hope," said one U.N. observer, "that it will be a white Christmas and not a black one."

Weinberger 'unhappy' with Israel's new action

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15 (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger today sharply attacked Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights and declined to rule out American support for United Nations sanctions against the Israeli government.

"We are very unhappy with it," he said. "What they have done now is, I think, clearly a violation of the United Nations resolutions and therefore of the Camp David agreement."

Syria has termed the Israeli move an act of war and called for a U.N. Security Council meeting to air its complaint.

Asked in a television interview if the United States would veto U.N. sanctions against Israel over the Golan Heights, Mr. Weinberger replied:

"I haven't any idea. I think it

would depend on what they were and whether or not there wasn't any way to get Israel to change its policy as opposed to continuing on this course."

He called the move by Israel "necessarily very provocative and what I would characterize as destabilizing in that very volatile area."

His comments were stronger than those of Secretary of State Alexander Haig, who condemned the Israeli move yesterday.

"The peace process is something that the president feels very strongly should not be interfered with in any way. And any event of this kind...casts some question about the whole process and therefore is something we have to be very unhappy about and very concerned about," Mr. Weinberger said.

Syria to counter Israeli act with 'the edge of the sword'

DAMASCUS, Dec. 15 (R) — Syria's defence minister said today that his country would counter Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights with "the edge of the sword."

Maj. Gen. Mustafa Tlas told army cadets at a graduation ceremony that the Israeli move yesterday was flagrant aggression backed by the United States.

"Syria's reaction to this aggressive Zionist measure will be the edge of the sword," he said. The Syrian government said yesterday that the decision to annex the strategic border region, captured during the 1967 Middle East war, meant that Israel was waging war on Syria and abrogating a ceasefire between them.

It said Syria reserved the right to take "measures appropriate to this grave and flagrant violation of

the charter and resolutions of the United Nations."

Syria has already called for an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council and today Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam appealed for support from the Islamic Conference Organisation, the Non-aligned Movement and the Organisation of African Unity, Damascus radio said.

Arab states have united in condemnation of the Israeli action, which has also been criticised by the United States.

A spokesman for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (P.L.O.), whose forces in South Lebanon fought the Israelis for two weeks in July, said the annexation would increase the chances of war in the region.

Europe condemns annexation

LONDON, Dec. 15 (R) — The 10 European Economic Community (EEC) states today condemned Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights.

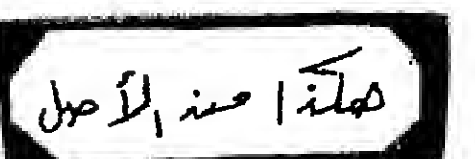
Foreign ministers of the ten, setting aside briefly their differences over EEC finances, issued the statement condemning Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights and another on Poland during a meeting here mainly devoted to negotiations on EEC budget reforms.

In their statement, the ministers said they strongly deplored Israel's decision to extend its law,

jurisdiction and administration to the occupied Syrian territories occupied in the 1967 Middle East war.

French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson, who won favour in Israel last week for remarks interpreted there as pro-Israeli, condemned the annexation move and said it was stupefying and extremely upsetting.

Mr. Cheysson told journalists that the decision was in flagrant contradiction with international law and would have serious consequences for the search for peace in the Middle East.



NATIONAL

Qasr Amra

Ancient inspiration comes to light in the desert

By Dina Matar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Spanish Archaeological Mission in Jordan has just completed another round of its long-term campaign to restore Qasr Amra, one of the best-known and best-preserved Umayyad "desert castles" in the Azraq area. The mission left Jordan late last month with an unwavering determination to return next summer.

Qasr Amra, thought to have been used as a desert retreat and hunting lodge, has long been considered a key monument for the understanding of early Islamic art. The building's location — purposely situated beyond the edge of cultivable land on the Jordanian plateau — makes it a unique place. But what is really special about Qasr Amra is its position in art history: marking the transition

between the personality of the Byzantine culture and the Arabic inspiration.

Amra's greatest, and best known, asset is its wall frescoes and other decorations. These representations, which have survived, amazingly, for centuries, are animated and lively images that convey a lot about the building, its use and purpose.

The Spanish mission has mounted a series of campaigns, in which a group of expert Spanish restorers cleaned and consolidated the building and its paintings. The mission also carried out some excavations, and published detailed documentation offering an insight into the importance of the building, both as a historical monument and as a work of art.

Before beginning its restoration work, the mission subjected the colours and the surface of the walls to a detailed chemical analy-

sis. The Spanish experts were able, on the basis of this analysis, to come up with the best procedure for cleaning and consolidating the paintings, of which some 75 per cent were partially hidden and in poor condition.

"The paintings were hideously covered with smoke," explained restorer Antonio Sanchez, one of the six members of the Qasr Amra team.

"After years of use, the smoke from fires built inside the monument had covered the surfaces of the walls and paintings in black," Mr. Sanchez told the Jordan Times. "Cleaning them required delicate and loving work, and that took so much time."

Mr. Sanchez recalled that some parts of the building had been threatened with collapse, and needed strengthening. Reinforcing these walls also took a long time, and a great deal of delicate handling.

"We introduced a hidden 'loop

of reinforced concrete into the thickness of the wall to prevent it from falling down," Mr. Sanchez said.

Not only were the walls threatening to collapse, but the condition of the various lively, coloured frescoes had also deteriorated. "Some had big holes in them which we had to fill in using a specially-prepared paste, which later would be topped with the same type of paint used in antiquity," Mr. Sanchez said.

Mr. Sanchez, who returned this autumn to continue the restoration and consolidation of the monument, feels that Qasr Amra should not be left in its present state. "It is such a unique work of art, that it's a pity to have neglected it for so long," he said.

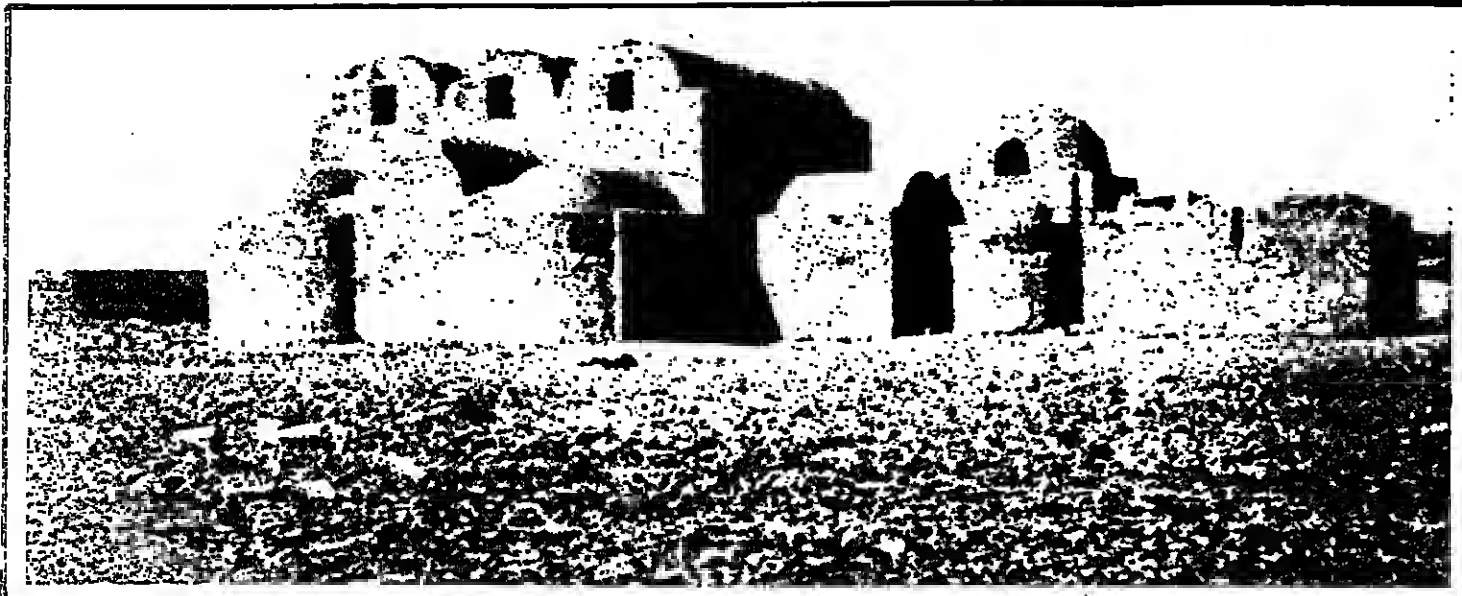
While working on the restoration of the qasr, Mr. Sanchez spent his time living with some bedouins in the area, where he got accustomed to some of the tribal

traditions in the Jordanian desert. "It reminded me so much of Spain that only on very rare occasions did I feel homesick," he said. He laughingly explained how he had abided by some of the customs, such as drinking coffee on each and every occasion, and sitting around with the heads of the tribe chatting about life.

"The funny thing is that I do not know the language, and we had to communicate by signalling all the time," he said.

Mr. Sanchez has a long career behind him of restoration and consolidation in other parts of the world, for example Mexico. The 34-year-old technician is married and has a son called Jaime. "My son's name was very convenient, because it sounds like the word for tent in Arabic. The hospitable bedouins were delighted, and went around calling me Abu Khaime," he said with a grin in his eye.

Qasr Amra (below) is the best preserved of all the desert castles. Its beautiful frescoes (right) still show the artistry of their contemporary life.



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MISCELLANEOUS

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NATIONAL

Al al-Bayt Foundation premises open with show of Koranic calligraphy

AMMAN, Dec. 15 (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein opened this afternoon the temporary premises of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al al-Bayt Foundation), and an exhibition of the development of Koranic calligraphy at the academy's premises.

King Hussein heard a briefing from the academy's president, Dr. Nasreddin Al Assad, who explained that the academy had begun implementation of two long-term important projects. The first is related to the publication of an Islamic civilisation encyclopaedia, and the second to the comprehensive indexing of the Arab and Islamic heritage throughout the world.

Dr. Assad said the academy will submit the results of its research, and plans for future projects, to its annual conference, which will be held in late April 1982. The conference will be held under the patronage of King Hussein.

Thirty-eight exhibits, including 115 reproductions of Koran manuscripts, are on display in the exhibition. They represent the development of Islamic calligraphy, binding and decoration in the various Islamic periods.

Dr. Assad said the week-long exhibition is part of a cooperation agreement between the academy and the trustees of an Islamic festival held in London five years ago, where an exhibition of a full set of original Koran manuscripts was held for the first time in history.

The opening ceremony was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Bahjat Al Talhouqi, Chief of the Royal Court Ahmad Al Lawzi, President of the National Consultative Council Ahmad Al Tarawneh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Court Minister Amer Khammash, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Lt. Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Minister of Culture and Youth Ma' an Abu Nowar, Alia Chairman and President Ali Gbandour and several members of the academy.

Good time at charity bazaar



Young guests inspect their "Lucky Dip" gains at the Grand Christmas Bazaar held by the British Ladies of Amman on Monday. Hand-made, home-made and home-grown items on sale at the bazaar disappeared fast from the stalls. The proceeds, JD 1,003, will be shared between two charities: the Home of Peace and the Franciscan Sisters. (Photo by Suzanne Zu'mut-Black)

University of Jordan trustees meet

AMMAN, Dec. 15 (Petra) — The board of trustees of the University of Jordan held a major session this morning in the presence of all members of the board, including Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani and Bahraini Industrial Development Minister Yousef Al Shirawi.

At the beginning of the session, Chief of the Royal Court Ahmad Al Lawzi, who chairs the university's board, welcomed the two honoured guests.

University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali then submitted the university's annual report, which included a review of the university's achievements since its establishment in 1962, as well as its aspirations in academic, financial, construction and organisational matters. The annual report also covers the achievements of the Jordan University Hospital and its aspirations.

After the board members made their remarks on the report, the board of trustees approved the basic principles of the university's policies, which assert that the educational process should be based on quality, not on quantity. The board also approved the appointment of a University of Jordan student and a graduate as two members of the board. The board also approved the appointment of Dr. Mohammad Hamdan as dean of scientific research.



Mohammad Idris

Idris appointed public security director

AMMAN, Dec. 15 (Petra) — A royal decree has been issued approving the cabinet's decision to appoint Lt. Gen. Mohammad Idris as director of public security, effective today. Lt. Gen. Idris had been serving as military secretary to His Majesty King Hussein.

The cabinet also decided to retire Maj. Gen. Mamoun Kbalil from his post as public security director at his own request, as of Dec. 15.

Lt. Gen. Idris has sent a cable to King Hussein expressing his thanks and appreciation for the appointment.

Alia V.P. gets new appointment

AMMAN, Dec. 15 (J.T.) — Mr. Ali Gbandour, the chairman and president of Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, has decided to transfer Mr. Munib Touqan from his post as vice president for public relations. Mr. Touqan will head a new department, in flight services, which includes more than 500 stewardesses, stewards and administrative employees.

Al Rai newspaper, reporting this today, said that in flight services was now to be an independent department headed by the vice president.

Mr. Touqan began work in his new post at Amman Airport today.

discussions which took place during the session, and the remarks made by the members of the board. The remarks focused on the need to support the university financially, to enable it to achieve its goals.

Permit requirement lifted for Egyptians in Jordan

AMMAN, Dec. 15 (J.T.) — Egyptian nationals will no longer be required to obtain residence permits to live and work in Jordan, according to a decision by Interior Minister Suleiman Arar.

The decision does not, however, affect the work permit requirements of the Ministry of Labour.

An Interior Ministry official told the Jordan Times that the decision, to take effect immediately, exempts Egyptians from having to obtain residence permits from the residence and foreigners' affairs department of the Public Security Directorate.

Only a visa issued by a Jordanian mission abroad, or at a border point, to indicate legal entry is now required from Egyptian nationals, he said.

Syrian nationals have been exempt from residence permits in Jordan since 1975.

Indian Muslim delegation leaves

AMMAN, Dec. 15 (Petra) — Dr. Mohammad Burhaneddin and his delegation representing the Bohra community in India left Amman this evening at the end of a three-day visit to Jordan. They met with His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and officials at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs. During its visit to Jordan, the delegation also visited the graves of the Prophet Mohammad's companions.

Bank employees learn about Jordan's forward market

AMMAN, Dec. 15 (J.T.) — The assistant manager of Citibank in Amman, Mr. Johnny Zeidan, today delivered a lecture on the forward market in currencies and its applications in Jordan, to participants in a training seminar on foreign currency handling organised by the Association of Banks in Jordan.

Mr. Zeidan gave the historical background of the operations of the forward market in Jordan. He also explained the meaning of dealing with the market, its benefits and the significance of the operations of this market.

The lecturer also reviewed the dangers to the agent who deals with this market. Notable among these dangers are currency price fluctuations, he said.

Mr. Zeidan also explained the factors which help fix the prices of forward market contracts, and Central Bank instructions on dealings in the market.

The lecture was one of a series of advanced lectures supervised by the Association of Banks in Jordan with the aim of acquainting the participants and bank employees in Jordan with modern techniques used in dealing with foreign currencies.

Thirty-eight participants, representing banks, companies and financial establishments which are members of the association, are participating in the seminar at the association's premises.

Alia's still thinking big

By Suzanne Zu'mut-Black Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, Dec. 15 — Despite worldwide economic gloom Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, is looking forward to the coming year with optimism and drive. The present route structure is to be expanded; three more wide-bodied aircraft are to be acquired, and there will be a 20 per cent increase in flying hours.

In a press conference today at the airline's headquarters, Alia Chairman and President Ali Gbandour made these predictions in outlining Alia's policies at the beginning of its 19th year of operations. Starting in January, Alia Boeing 747 jumbo jets will be breaking new ground on the route to Manila via Colombo, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, and possibly later extending as far as Seoul. In May, Alia's new Lockheed TriStars will add a twice-weekly stop at Istanbul en route to London. Frequency of flights closer to home, and particularly to the Gulf area, will also be increased.

More ambitiously, the national carrier plans to start a pioneer route westward in November 1982. Alia TriStars will fly to Rio de Janeiro via Lagos and Abidjan, to serve the large Arab populations living in these areas.

The three new TriStars to be delivered during the course of

1982 will complete the modernisation of Alia's fleet, Mr. Gbandour said. The older Boeing 707 aircraft will either be sold off or used exclusively as cargo carriers. As a consequence of this updating of the fleet, passenger business is expected to rise from a 1981 figure of 1.4 million to 1.75 million in the coming year.

Mr. Gbandour stressed that Alia's working plan during its 19th year is based on Jordan's political and economic needs, and is consistent with His Majesty King Hussein's wish that Alia serve as Jordan's "ambassador at large." He went on to say that Alia had the greatest growth rate in the Middle East, and possibly the second greatest worldwide.

For the ninth consecutive year, he said, a profit had been made. Next year's profit is estimated at JD 1.5 million, despite rising fuel costs which now constitute 35 per cent of the company's expenditure.

Alia continues to promote tourism both to archaeological sites such as Jerash and Petra, and to places of religious interest such as Jerusalem and Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank. Slogans used to attract tourists vary from "Visit Jordan the Land of the Sun" to "Visit Jordan the Holy Land".

Mr. Gbandour added, however, that the airline hoped to attract additional revenue from the commercial sector if Amman can be made a more active Middle East business centre.

In reply to a question, Mr. Gbandour expanded on recent changes in tourist flow to the West Bank. After going to Jerusalem across the bridge, Alia passengers continue over-land to Cairo and then return to Amman by air to connect with their New York flights.

Unique skin graft succeeds

AMMAN, Dec. 15 (Petra) — A team of cosmetic surgeons at the King Hussein Medical Centre has succeeded in an important skin graft operation between the abdomen and the hand, it was announced today.

The team, led by Dr. Ghaith Shubailat, transferred a large area of the skin and the adjoining fat, measuring 21 by 14 centimetres and a two-centimetres thick, from the abdomen and the upper thigh of a 12-year-old patient. The skin was transferred onto the left hand in the same operation.

The complicated operation — the first of its kind in the Arab World — reflects the high medical standards in Jordan, the announcement said. The operating team used microsopic surgery to restore the blood circulation to the skin by connecting numerous minute blood vessels measuring less than one millimetre in diameter.

The operation took 10 hours.

Swedish envoy marks a 'first' in diplomacy

AMMAN, Dec. 15 (J.T.) — The Swedish ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Sten Stromholm, has established a novel precedent in diplomacy by his "bi-residential" status in both Lebanon and Jordan.

Ambassador and Mrs. Stromholm held a reception at their Amman residence Monday night, and the ambassador later pointed out to the Jordan Times that he is maintaining official residences in both Amman and Beirut.

He plans to divide his time equally between both capitals. He is also responsible for covering Syria, though he does not maintain a home there.

The Swedish embassy here also includes the permanently resident charge d'affaires, Mr. Mathias Mossberg.

The Jordan Times had reported incorrectly in yesterday's newspaper that Ambassador Stromholm was resident only in Beirut.

Today's Weather

It will be increasingly cold and partly cloudy, with scattered showers in the north. Winds will be southwesterly moderate, freshening at times. In Aqaba it will be hazy, with northerly moderate winds and calm seas.

| | Overnight low | Daytime high |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Amman | 6 | 16 |
| Aqaba | 10 | 23 |
| Deserts | 5 | 19 |
| Jordan Valley | 9 | 22 |

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 19, Aqaba 25. Humidity readings: Amman 28 per cent, Aqaba 27 per cent.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Queen visits charity home

AMMAN, Dec. 15 (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor visited this afternoon Dar Al Salam (the Home of Peace) home for the disabled and needy, run by the Sisters of Charity. The Queen inspected the home and its utilities, and was briefed on the conditions of the people living in it. She also heard a briefing on the services rendered by the home to 95 residents.

Alia seeks more flights to London

AMMAN, Dec. 15 (J.T.) — Civil Aviation Director General Sharif Gbazi Rakan will leave for London at the end of this week to hold talks with British aviation officials on an increase in the number of flights to London by Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, the local press reported today. It said Alia wants to make four flights a week and to amend the memorandum of understanding signed between the Jordanian and British civil aviation authorities in 1979.

Badran meets 2 visiting aides

AMMAN, Dec. 15 (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran received at his office this afternoon Saudi Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani and Bahraini Minister of Industrial Development Yousef Al Shirawi. The meeting was attended by University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali. Both ministers came to Amman to attend the meeting of the University of Jordan's board of trustees, of which they are members.

NCC panel meets on budget

AMMAN, Dec. 15 (Petra) — The financial and administrative committee of the National Consultative Council (NCC) met today under its chairman, Dr. Khalil Al Salem, to discuss the draft state budget for 1982. The committee will resume its meetings for this purpose tomorrow morning. The meeting was attended by the finance minister and the director of general budget.

Princess Wijdan opens exhibition

AMMAN, Dec. 15 (Petra) — An exhibition of the paintings of Princess Wijdan Ali opened this evening at the Alia Art Gallery. The paintings are inspired by the environment of the Jordanian desert. The opening ceremony of the 12-day exhibition was attended by several officials and art lovers, as well as diplomatic corps members.

Ministry stocks up on turkey

AMMAN, Dec. 15 (Petra) — A spokesman for the Ministry of Supply has said that in view of the increased demand for frozen turkey, particularly with Christmas drawing near, the ministry has imported turkey in large quantities, which it intends to sell at 750 fils a kilogramme wholesale and 850 fils a kilogramme retail. The ministry is prepared to meet the demand for turkey through its centres in Jabal Hussein, Jabal Luweibdeh and its warehouses in Juweideh, and its vehicles will also distribute the meat to shops willing to sell it.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Exhibitions

- An exhibition of "Contemporary Jordanian Painters," at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- The paintings of Rizq Abdul Hadi, at the Ministry of Culture and Youth Art Gallery.
- Paintings by Basem Al Sheikh Jawad, at the Holiday Inn.
- Paintings, entitled "Desert", by Princess Wijdan Ali at the Alia Art Gallery.

The British Council

- Presents an "An Evening with Suhail Bisharat." Suhail Bisharat, director of the Jordan National Gallery, discusses the contemporary art scene in Jordan with his guests Princess Wijdan Ali, artist and president of the Royal Society of Fine Arts; Mohanna Durra, artist and consultant to the minister of culture, and Prof. Malcolm Quantrill, art critic and deputy editor of Art International. Refreshments will be available from 7 p.m.

Lecture

- On kidney diseases, by Dr. Tareq Suheimat, head of the kidney department at the King Hussein Medical Centre. At the Professional Associations Complex, at 6 p.m.

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The Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation
Research (Al Al-bait Foundation)
presents an exhibition of

**KORANIC CALLIGRAPHY AND
ILLUMINATION**

At the academy's premises, in Umm Uthaima, the corner of
Abha and Tabouk streets (near the 6th Circle).

The exhibition will be open to the public from 9 a.m. until 3
p.m., Wednesday 14 Safar 1402
(Dec. 16) through Tuesday, 25 Safar 1402 (Dec. 22).

بيتنا من اجلك

Jordan Times

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U.S., Israel find fewer Soviet Jews to haggle over

By Barbara von Ow

A SHARP FALL in the number of Jews allowed to leave the Soviet Union has opened a deep rift between U.S. and Israeli organisations in Vienna helping to resettle them.

After jointly handling over a quarter of million emigrants in the last decade, the two groups are quarrelling over the fate of the dwindling number now arriving in Vienna.

They agree that Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union, expected this year to fall below 10,000 for the first time since the exodus started in 1969, will become a trickle in the years ahead. But they are sharply divided about the reasons.

The Israeli side accuses American aid groups of having provoked a new Kremlin hard line by wooing a swelling number of emigrants away from Israel, the destination stated on their exit visas.

But U.S. organisations, defending the principle of free choice of destination, link the decline solely to tensions in East-West relations.

The rift became evident when the Jewish Agency, which handles immigration to Israel, decided last August to change its assistance programme after receiving what it said were "broad hints of dissatisfaction" from Moscow at the high rate of emigrants settling in countries other than Israel.

Until then the agency referred all emigrants arriving in Vienna who chose not to go to Israel to two American Jewish organisations, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) and the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC).

Under its new procedures, the agency directed such emigrants to the two American bodies only if they had immediate relatives, such as parents, children or a spouse, in the U.S.

The new policy was implemented for a month during which the rate of departures to Israel immediately rose from 20 to 30 per cent. Baruch Minkovitz, the agency's director in Vienna, told Reuters.

Mr. Minkovitz accused HIAS of breaking an agreement on the issue shortly afterwards.

'Stealing' and 'forcing'

But Dr. Merrill Rosenberg, HIAS director in Vienna, said: "We don't want to be accused of stealing people. But people who did not want to go to Israel were literally evicted on the street, so we helped them. They cannot force people to go to Israel."

Mr. Minkovitz retorted: "We don't want to force anybody. But we don't want to be forced to help those who harm our interests." "Moscow has made it known on several occasions that it will let fewer Jews out if more go

to the U.S. This year 80 per cent have gone to the U.S. and look what happens -- last month we had fewer than 400 arriving here for the first time in ten years."

"To get a visa for Israel and then decide in Vienna, when all pressure is gone, to go to America, is cheating the Soviet authorities. This slowly closes the door, and could liquidate Soviet Jewish emigration altogether," he said.

Objections to refugee status in U.S.

Mr. Minkovitz estimated that 200,000 to 400,000 of the three million Jews in the Soviet Union want to emigrate, and have received the invitations from relatives in Israel that they need to apply for a visa. Official Soviet statistics put the number of Jews in the country at around 1.8 million.

The Jewish Agency objects to the U.S. granting Soviet Jewish emigrants refugee status. "As a lawyer, I simply cannot understand how someone with a visa for a free country can be considered a refugee," Mr. Minkovitz said.

Israel had repeatedly asked the Soviet Union to put Jewish emigrants aboard direct flights to Tel Aviv rather than use neutral Austria for transit, but without success, Mr. Minkovitz said. He had asked thousands of emigrants whether they would still have left the Soviet Union know-

ing that they could go only to Israel, and none had said no, he added.

Moscow does not care

In the view of HIAS officials, the Kremlin's reluctance to introduce direct transfer to Israel proves that Moscow takes no real interest in where the Jewish emigrants finally settle.

"Moscow does not care where they are going," Dr. Rosenberg said. "Soviet Jews are used as a pawn in East-West relations."

The Jewish Agency acknowledges that many Soviet Jews are not motivated religiously or culturally to go to Israel. "But most of their ideas about Israel are prejudiced by Soviet propaganda," Mr. Minkovitz said.

In a heavily-guarded Red Cross welfare centre outside Vienna, where emigrants are taken on arrival, agency officials try to persuade them by showing films and books about the Zionist state. But only a few change their minds, Mr. Minkovitz of the Jewish Agency said.

"If we asked them where they preferred to go to Israel or to the United States, we would be right away. They think America is paradise on earth." "But we think they are going from one form of exile to another," he added.

See them run

ISRAEL'S unilateral annexation of the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, like many other similarly aggressive, illegal and predatory Israeli actions, is not explained only by the need of political Zionism to expand at the expense of Arab land and the Palestinian identity. It is also explained by the now obvious acquiescence of the government of the United States in such moves. We have seen Israel annex the greater Jerusalem area and the Golan Heights; we've seen it build over 120 settlements throughout the occupied territories; we've seen it destroy hundreds of Palestinian homes; we've seen it commit many other aggressive acts whose common theme is a desire to drive out of Palestine as many Palestinians as possible. We've also seen all this take place while annual American government aid to Israel has continued increasing to the point where every Israeli man, woman and child is receiving today over \$1,000 every year in official and non-official American financial aid.

We are deluding ourselves if we put any faith in the statement of "regret" and "concern" issued by the American government's highest foreign policy official, Secretary of State Alexander Haig, about the Golan Heights annexation. Mr. Haig and his government have recently completed a memorandum of understanding with Israel on strategic cooperation. Why should he do anything other than slap Israel lightly on its wrists for annexing the Golan Heights? The conclusion that the Arab World draws yet again--after the case of Ziad Abu 'Ein, after the Golan annexation, after the strategic cooperation agreement--is that it is impossible to separate Israeli and American actions in the Middle East--or to separate responsibility for those actions. The absence of any Arab response allows the Americans and the Israelis to run wild in the Middle East, like two wild horses frolicking in green pastures.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Go where? -- Oh, Golan

AL RA'Y: The Israeli decision to annex the Golan Heights comes as a result of the shaky Arab situation. The Israeli decision to annex Arab Jerusalem, the Israeli attack against the Iraqi nuclear reactor and the Israeli threats to Saudi Arabia had also highlighted the deteriorating Arab situation.

One can also assume that the Arab leaders are aware of this fact. The Arab leadership has the option to sidestep all the differences and sensitivities and work as one team to confront the dangers that threaten the very existence of the Arab Nation, or to keep on being satisfied with voicing denunciations and condemnations which are powerless to stop the Israeli aggression.

There is no point in talking about the Israeli intentions of aggression and expansion. Everybody is aware of them and realises that this talk can never absolve the "Arab Conscience" of its responsibilities towards future generations. The only way to achieve this is through solidarity and joint action.

Arab leaders are urged to break through this barrier of differences and sensitivities. Any Arab leader who embarks on this step, will not be judged as weak. Arab history and the Arab masses will interpret his action to be a responsible and brave pan-Arab action adopted in order to fend off the catastrophes befalling the Arab Nation.

The time factor no longer permits the continuation of Arab differences. Arab leaders face a historic option which is "to act or not to act", and history will bear witness.

Jordan has time and again warned against the destructive results of Arab differences and sensitivities. This has never been an act of outbidding on its part. It is high time the Arab leadership faced its responsibilities which means more than merely shedding tears over the Golan Heights.

Where the money goes

AL DUSTOUR: The Jordanian minister of finance yesterday briefed the National Consultative Council on the draft law of the government general budget. This budget draft law clearly portrayed the government's plans for next year.

The JD 765 million budget shows a JD 127 million increase over the 1981 budget and an increase in local revenues which amounted to JD 228 million derived from an increase in local production. This proves that Jordan is on its way to close the gap between revenues and expenditures.

The minister of finance said that this budget is a step ahead to achieve our ambition to build a modern and strong Jordan. He added that this will not influence our commitments to stand by the Palestinian people and support their steadfastness in the occupied territories since Jordan believes that confronting the enemy is a pan-Arab responsibility. It is for this purpose that the budget concentrated on strengthening the Jordanian armed forces in order to enable them to fulfil their duty to defend the homeland, and to be prepared itself to liberate the occupied territories and to bring to an end the occupation which oppresses the Palestinian people and the holy lands.

It is regrettable that Libya and Algeria have not paid their promised share of the support money for Jordan. But other states like Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Qatar have made an honourable stand. Not only have they paid their shares but provided the sums which Libya and Algeria withheld.

N'Djamena's uphill climb to recovery

By Tim Gilroy

A YEAR AFTER the guns stopped firing, the people of N'Djamena have set about patching the bullet holes, and with some modest success have begun the enormous task of restoring the war-ravaged city to a functioning capital.

The process is already hindered by an acute shortage of money, both in the government and in the economy at large.

At the same time, renewed fighting in eastern Chad and the 10-faction coalition government of Chadian President Goukouni Quedde point up the fragility of the current peace in the capital. Nevertheless, widespread wear-

iness with the fighting, and a dawning realisation among officials and the city's people of the extent of destruction caused by last year's 11-month civil war, appear to have engendered a cautious optimism that the peace will hold.

"They are all sick of fighting," said a United Nations official living here since last summer. "And everyone I have talked to in the government realises that if it (war) starts again, N'Djamena is finished."

City of ruins

After separate rounds of fighting in 1979 and again last year, the city is largely in ruins. Buildings in

the centre of town, near the airport, and in several residential areas are little more than bullet-riddled shells.

Constant battles between the Libyan-backed forces of the Chad leader and those of former defence minister Hissene Habre, now in the bush in eastern Chad, wrought the havoc.

The once-majestic cathedral in the Place de l'Independence, its facade marred by a thousand bullet and mortar holes, is still missing its roof, blown off in the early days of the war last year.

Amid the destruction, however, there are signs of restoration. And while progress falls well short of a wholesale face-lift, it, nevertheless, provides a small measure of

hope to anyone who saw this city shortly after the war.

Several buildings, like the chamber of commerce and treasury, have been plastered and repainted, and now function as government offices. A year ago, neither had a window intact nor a square metre of wall not gouged by small arms or rocket fire. Several other buildings -- the central post office and supreme court building -- are halfway there, with plaster mottling their walls.

Civil services pick up

French technicians, working almost non-stop, expressed guarded hopes that international telecommunications would be

re-established shortly. Air service to Europe -- suspended in 1979 because of the war -- has started up again with one Air Afrique flight weekly. The airport terminal is still a blackened window case symbol of the ferocity of the battle for control of the airport last year; but Western technicians, cooperating with the United Nations, have got the control tower functioning again.

Services, non-existent since the war are working again, albeit intermittently, and electricity now functions more often than not.

Water is less reliable, although hotel guests can generally count on a cold shower sometime during the day, and garbage, that a year ago stood ankle-deep along the

main Avenue Charles de Gaulle, has been raked and burned.

The city's primary and high schools re-opened in October according to Mahamat Nour, director of one of three sections of the primary school, curriculum increases every day.

Those who fled come back

Despite the moribund state of Chad's economy -- the government acknowledges it is bankrupt -- commerce along the Chari River is busy. Trucks loaded with gasoline and food lined up sometimes for days, on the Cameroon side, waiting for space on one of the three ferries that link the two countries.

From dawn to the 5.30 pm river curfew, hundreds of small boats, mostly dug-out canoes, ply the 500 metre of water, carrying an impressive volume of food, clothing, consumer goods, and most importantly, people.

Some 50,000 of the 100,000 refugees that fled the fighting last year have come home, and with the departure of Libyan troops from the city, thousands of those who requested asylum in Cameroon may now return to Chad, relief workers say.

Both residents and relief workers here agree that the major factor in the refugees' decision to return has been an increase in security.

Tension eases a little

Gone are the roving bands of armed teenagers. Even those installations still guarded -- the presidency, radio station and airport -- have smaller, better disciplined contingents now.

More than just fewer guns, however, there has been a decreasing of tension since the end of fighting last December, when many residents expected the fragile coalition of several northern and southern factions that had joined forces to defeat Mr. Habre to break apart. It did not.

But if there is a return of normal activity in this city, it is a slow one that often serves only to illustrate the enormity of the recovery yet to come.

Thus while several buildings have been restored, dozens of others remain in the abandoned, bullet-riddled state they were in just after the war. And if walking along the devastated Avenue Charles de Gaulle has been cleaned up, the street is no place to a return to its pre-war status as N'Djamena's premier shopping street.

Economic questions remain

The economic problems here, however, appear the most intractable. Always among the 10 poorest nations in the earth, Chad's economy has slid to the brink of disintegration after the last two rounds of war.

Cotton production, according to sources in Cameroon, has dropped 70 per cent from pre-war levels, and because seed and fertilizer could not reach growing areas, it will fall even lower next year.

The government last year worked in May -- and is preparing for a \$5.3 million loan from President Mitterrand's government to resume salaries.

Two weeks ago outgoing U.N. secretary-general Kurt Waldheim called for reconstruction aid worth some 200 million U.S. dollars -- about twice Chad's gross domestic product -- in its best years in the mid-70's.

With no money, and no chance for a rapid revitalisation of the economy, Chad will depend on aid and relief agencies for even basic needs.



Namibia: Dreams of independence vs. reality of mistrust and strife

By David Reid

WESTERN ATTEMPTS to secure an internationally-acceptable independence settlement for Namibia (South West Africa) face their toughest test in the new year, according to diplomatic sources in Johannesburg.

South African and Western officials seem pleased by the progress made towards completing phase one of the Western peace initiative -- agreement on constitutional principles for the future independent Namibia which would provide safeguards for minority ethnic groups among its one million population.

Hopes are that this phase can be completed by Christmas in further contacts between the Western five contact group -- Britain, the United States, France, West Germany and Canada -- and the African states concerned.

U.N. impartiality

But there is a shared awareness that phase two -- dispelling South African and Namibian internal party doubts about United Nations impartiality in supervising free elections after a ceasefire, and the composition, strength and deployment of a multinational U.N. force -- will pose serious problems. It was the impartiality issue

which led to the failure of the multi-party Geneva conference on Namibia last January, when the South Africans and the internal parties declared it was premature to set a date for implementing the peace process until the U.N. demonstrated it could fulfil its role without bias.

Their apprehensions will certainly not have been diminished by the latest U.N. General Assembly call for sweeping sanctions against South Africa, its criticisms of the West and its renewal of support for the black nationalist freedom movement, the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) as the only legitimate representative of the Namibian people.

South African raids

On the other hand, Western officials say, South African raids against SWAPO bases inside Angola, Namibia's northern neighbour, and Third World suspicions about Pretoria's role in the abortive Seychelles coup have not eased the Western task in persuading SWAPO and its African supporters to speed a compromise.

South African officials and leaders of the multi-racial Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA) in Windhoek argue that U.N. bias towards SWAPO would hamper rather than safeguard the holding

of really free and fair elections envisaged some seven months after a ceasefire ending the 15-year bush war in Namibia. Many of the people in the northern operational zone along the Angolan frontier would see U.N. troops as a "pro-SWAPO army" which would dissuade them from voting for opponents of the movement, according to these arguments.

The operational area is home of the Ovambos, who make up nearly half Namibia's total population and are the main recruiting ground for SWAPO.

Other thorny issues include the size of the U.N. force -- 7,500 men under current U.N. proposals -- as well as its deployment in the war zone and the monitoring of SWAPO bases outside Namibian territory, particularly in Angola.

Internal divisions

While the Western search for an independence package in 1982 goes on, the internal parties in Namibia are bitterly divided over strategy and the DTA led by millionaire white farmer Dirk Mudge is feeling the strain.

Mr. Mudge who also heads the territory's ministerial council which now enjoys wide executive powers, has recently been openly critical of South Africa and its administrator-general in Windhoek, Danie Hough, for

allegedly obstructing DTA attempts to sweep away the last vestiges of racial discrimination in the territory, where the whites are a minority of 110,000.

The DTA, made up of white, black and coloured (mixed race) parties, was victorious in the December 1978 one-man, one-vote elections to a constituent -- now national -- assembly. But the elections were not recognised internationally and SWAPO and several internal parties boycotted the polls.

DTA protests

The assembly, where the DTA won a majority of 41 of the 50 seats, recently adopted a motion calling on South Africa to respect the wishes of the people of Namibia.

Dirk Mudge, who has always rejected SWAPO charges that he is a South African puppet and describes himself as a Namibian, told the assembly that if South Africa denied the people its aspirations the DTA could face political suicide in elections for an independent Namibia.

The DTA complains that Administrator-General Hough has refused to amend the territory's provisional constitution -- a proclamation known as A.G. 8 -- thus enabling the traditional National Party majority in the white ethnic assembly in Win-

dhook to entrench racial discrimination, particularly in education. The pro-apartheid National Party holds 11 of the 18 seats allocated for whites in the assembly and advocates a white South African-style apartheid in running the authority's affairs, while white South African civil servants employed in Namibia are also blamed for thwarting DTA reform plans.

Mr. Mudge attacked a statement by Mr. Hough criticising the DTA attitude and deploring what the administrator called lack of recognition of South African aid to the territory -- South African Prime Minister P.W. Botha says Pretoria has poured three billion rand (more than \$3 billion) into Namibia's development.

"The DTA has a record of cooperation in the protracted quest for an internationally-acceptable solution for Namibia," Mr. Mudge said. "But if we are forced into a situation in which we can do nothing to amend A.G. 8, South Africa should not rely on our whole-hearted and enthusiastic cooperation."

The DTA leader's statement reflected growing frustration among Namibian politicians and businessmen over the long and complex road to independence.

-- Reuter

Handwritten signature: *Jordan Times*

ECONOMY

Gold, dollar fall on money markets

LONDON, Dec. 15 (R) — Gold and the dollar eased back on financial markets around the world today, losing some of the sharp gains made yesterday in the hectic reaction to the military takeover in Poland.

The West German mark, which came under particularly heavy pressure yesterday morning, strengthened further and has now recovered most of its losses against the dollar.

Dealers said the breakout on independent news from Poland had removed the influence of events there on the markets.

Gold, which is regarded by

investors as a safe haven for their money at times of political crisis, fell to \$413.25 an ounce at the morning fix in London and Zurich after closing at \$418.5 in London yesterday.

At one stage yesterday it reached \$430 an ounce in Hong Kong, up from Friday's New York close of \$407.

Much of the dollar's gains yesterday were also wiped out on foreign exchange markets. The West German mark, which came under most pressure yesterday because of Bonn's position as Warsaw's largest trading partner in the West, was fixed at 2.2776 to

the dollar in Frankfurt today, from 2.29 yesterday.

Early yesterday it dropped to 2.3315 to the dollar before the West German central bank sold more than \$30 million to support it. Today the bank sold a further \$40.65 million.

The pound sterling gained from \$1.8670 at yesterday's London close to 1.8817 during trading. Dealers said there was a market feeling that the dollar had been overbought yesterday as investors looked for secure holdings.

They said Poland was unlikely to influence the markets again before Christmas unless popular

protest became violent and the possibility of Soviet intervention grew.

Stock markets around the world were mainly quiet with no signs of a repeat of yesterday's fall on Wall Street where the Dow Jones industrial average lost more than 15 points to close at \$71.48.

A number of markets, led by Tokyo where the stock market index rose 26 points to close at 7,680, made small gains as investors picked up bargains after yesterday's falls.

But other markets, including London, Sydney and Amsterdam fell slightly.

Three oil states offer Libya technical help

ABU DHABI, Dec. 15 (R) — The United Arab Emirates joined Kuwait and Iran today in offering technical help to Libya if its oil output suffered if and when U.S. technicians pulled out of the country.

The offer was made in a foreign ministry statement carried by the Emirates news agency (WAM).

Kuwait said Sunday that it was ready to help and Tehran radio, monitored in London today, said Iran could send experts and equipment.

The United States, accusing Libya of plotting to kill President Reagan, last week urged U.S. nationals to leave Libya and restricted travel there by Americans. Libya denies any plot.

Oil ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), meeting here last week, declined to adopt a formal position on the issue, with a majority arguing it was chiefly a political matter, but left it to individual members of the group to act as they saw fit.

U.K. cuts overseas aid

LONDON, Dec. 15 (R) — Britain's Conservative government, which has already trimmed its foreign aid programme by 15 per cent since 1979, announced a further cut yesterday.

Overseas Development Minister Neil Marten said foreign aid next year would be £950 million (\$1,767 million), £26 million (\$48 million) less than formerly planned.

Official British aid, as a percentage of gross national product, has been falling in recent years. In 1979 it amounted to 0.52 per cent and last year 0.34 per cent.

But government officials say that Britain is still the fifth most important donor of aid in the world.

Mr. Marten said the government had decided to allow the Commonwealth Development Corporation to borrow up to £15 million (\$28 million) a year for the next three years from non-government sources.

Saudis to feed plants with cheap gas

BAHRAIN, Dec. 15 (R) — New Saudi Arabian oil refineries and chemical plants will have an edge over European rivals because they will be fed with cut-price gas, a senior Saudi official told the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES).

The Saudis plan to tap huge volumes of gas to burn as fuel in new refineries and chemical plants, while the gas will also provide the chemical factories with new material. Most of the new plants will start up in three to four years' time, the official said.

The Saudi official, Abdelhady Taher, governor of the state oil and gas company Petromin, told MEES, a weekly oil journal, that the Saudis would charge only 50 U.S. cents per million British thermal units for gas flowing to their plants. European gas prices range nearly 10 times higher.

"There is no doubt that our export refineries and petrochemical projects will have an edge over European plants in terms of costs," Dr. Taher said.

MEES said the price was equivalent to only \$2.75 a barrel of crude oil. But Dr. Taher said it would start rising when the new ventures began to make a profit and would ultimately be linked with the price of Saudi light crude oil, now \$34 a barrel.

OPEC countries led by the Saudis plan to break into the world market for refined products. In Europe, refiners have been losing money, buying high-priced crude oil and selling products into a surplus-ridden market.

Western oil companies plan to close some European refineries and say job losses are inevitable.

Dr. Taher said Saudi Arabia

expected to export about 800,000 barrels daily of refined oil products by the second half of the 1980s. This, however, is less than 10 per cent of current Saudi crude oil output.

He also said that by 1987 the Saudis would probably have pushed their maximum sustainable crude output level to 12

million barrels daily. They now produce 8.5 million but could go up above 11 million in short bursts, experts believe.

Oil market analysts say any rise in Saudi capacity to pump oil is good news for the consumer as it strengthens the Saudis' ability to flood the market to enforce their moderate pricing goals on other exporters.

Japanese aides to discuss trade friction

TOKYO, Dec. 15 (R) — A Special Japanese cabinet council meets tomorrow to discuss ways of increasing imports and soothing strained trade relations with Western Europe and the United States, government officials said today.

The council failed at an earlier meeting on November 17 to agree on any major steps to reduce

Japan's trade surplus with the U.S. and the European Economic Community (EEC), which is expected to reach more than \$30 billion in the current financial year.

The council only adopted minor measures, turning down plans for an accelerated emergency import programme under which raw materials, such as rare metals and

crude oil, would be stockpiled to help redress the trade imbalance.

The International Trade and Industry Ministry (MITI) said it would submit a plan at the council meeting to review Japan's non-trading restrictions on imports for which Tokyo has come under heavy fire recently from its major trading partners.

Germans drive a hard bargain on Soviet gas

FRANKFURT: The Soviet Union is being forced to take a dose of its own unpalatable medicine as it draws up the final contracts for its latest controversial natural gas supply deal with Western Europe.

In negotiating with Western plant contractors for pipes and equipment for the 5,500 km gas export pipeline from western Siberia, Moscow beat down prices to minimum levels by carefully shopping around world markets before playing off one equipment supplier against another. At the same time it took advantage of the cheapest available credit.

In its negotiations with the potential gas purchasers, however, the boot has been on the other foot.

The actual prices of most international gas contracts are guarded like the crown jewels, but it is evident from the agreement reached by Moscow with West German companies that the Soviet Union has this time had to make impor-

tant concessions, back-tracking considerably from its original price demands.

Dr. Klaus Liese, chief executive of Ruhrgas, made plain at the week-end that the West German gas companies had been successful in holding the line against any demands for "crude oil parity" pricing. The natural gas price agreed with Moscow and the index-linking for future price movements have been tied "overwhelmingly" to heating oil and fuel oil prices in the West German energy market.

The point might appear technical, but is of crucial importance to Western gas distributors, who want gas to remain a competitive fuel in their domestic energy markets in the face of demands for

higher prices from leading gas producers.

The call for parity pricing with crude oil has been led by Algeria with backing from other members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries. But it is being fought resolutely by most West European gas purchasers.

"The Russians had to realise that the prices they were demanding had to be kept in line with competing fuels, or else there would have been no agreement," said a Ruhrgas executive.

As late as May the Soviet side was holding out for a higher price than that agreed last year by Ruhrgas and other continental gas companies with Statoil, the Norwegian state oil and gas company, for supplies from the North Sea Statfjord Field.

Those supplies — around 2 billion cubic metres a year will come to West Germany — are understood to have been contracted at a price of \$5.50 per million BTU (British Thermal Units), and to have escalated since to around \$5.80 per cent million BTU. The gas will not start to flow until 1986, but Ruhrgas has made clear that such a high price was only

paid for strategic reasons.

Continental gas buyers were determined to ensure that the gas pipeline to be built from the northerly Norwegian gas fields would come ashore on the continent and not on the coast of the U.K., the competing bidder. For such relatively small quantities it was ready to pay a premium to ensure future strategic access to the estimated 1,200 billion cubic metres of natural gas available for recovery in northerly Norwegian fields.

"One cannot buy further quantities at such prices," said Dr. Liese.

For the Soviet Union it was vital that agreement be reached with West Germany for the gas export project to succeed at all. West Germany is taking 10.5 billion cubic metres a year of the total 40 billion cubic metres a year that will begin to flow in 1984.

In return for concessions on price, however, the West German gas companies have agreed to fix a minimum price for the duration of the 25-year contract. Such a condition has rarely featured in earlier contracts, but was included in the abortive supply contracts with Iran which were put on ice in the

aftermath of the Iranian revolution.

The clause is important to Moscow, which is facing an investment of an estimated \$15 billion in the new export pipeline system from western Siberia. The minimum price, which is not index-linked, guarantees Moscow a certain minimum rate of return on the project.

Reports from Paris suggest that the minimum price agreed by Gaz de France in its talks with Moscow is \$5.70 per million BTU. Ruhrgas has fixed its prices in D-Marks — not in dollars — and will pay on a cif basis of gas delivered at the West German border with payments being made in D-Marks.

The trump card held by Ruhrgas is that it has negotiated on behalf of all the West German gas companies, a five-member consortium including Salzgitter Ferngas, Thyssengas BEB (a joint venture of Shell and Esso) and Deutsche BP.

Moscow could not divide and rule as it did so successfully with the plant contractors, and agreement with the consortium was its only chance of gaining access to the West German gas market.

— Financial Times

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON, Dec. 15 (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets today.

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| One sterling | 1.8745/60 | U.S. dollars |
| One U.S. dollar | 1.1931/34 | Canadian dollars |
| | 2.2755/70 | West German marks |
| | 2.4870/4900 | Dutch guilders |
| | 1.8370/90 | Swiss francs |
| | 37.70/80 | Belgian francs |
| | 5.7700/50 | French francs |
| | 121.4/1215 | Italian lire |
| | 219.55/70 | Japanese yen |
| | 5.5825/5900 | Swedish crowns |
| | 5.7775/7870 | Norwegian crowns |
| | 7.3600/3700 | Danish crowns |
| One ounce of gold | 412.00/75 | U.S. dollars |

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON, Dec. 15 (R) — Share prices closed slightly easier in very quiet trading, dealers said. At 1500 the F.T. index was down 1.9 at 511.

Prices tended to drift on lack of interest with no fresh news to influence trading, dealers added. Falls among leaders were generally limited to penny or two, as in ICI, Guest Keen, Blue Circle, Hawker Siddeley and Beechams. A £32.2 million rights issue left ICL down 2p at 44p.

Gold shares eased by up to 150 cents, while North Americans were mixed.

Government bonds fell by up to 1/4 point in the long end following the lower U.S. bonds opening, dealers said. Short dates showed little change, as U.K. money market operations passed off smoothly despite today's large shortage of funds, they added.

Berkley Hambro featured in properties with a 54p rise to 328p following an agreed bid from town and county, up 4p to 31 1/2 p. Arthur Guinness added 4p to 65p and northern foods was unchanged at 142p following final results from both companies. British sugar rose 13p to 411p amid renewed speculative demand. Banks showed mixed movements, while oils were steady.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

18:00 News Summary
18:03 Story Time
18:30 Jibrin Jibrin
19:00 News Desk (News Bulletin, Press Review, News Reports)
19:10 News Reports
19:30 Instrumentals
20:30 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:03 Evening Show
21:57 News Headlines
22:00 Close down

CHANNEL 3

4:00 Koran
4:10 Cartoon
4:35 Recording of soccer match between Al Faisali and Al Jeel teams
6:10 Bionic Woman
7:00 Local Programme
7:10 Message by the Bahraini Ambassador in Amman on Bahrain's National Day
7:30 Local Programme on Education
8:00 News in Arabic
8:30 Arabic Series
9:40 Boxing
10:30 Arabic series
11:20 News in Arabic

CHANNEL 6

6:00 French Programme
7:00 News in French
7:30 News in Hebrew
8:00 News in Arabic
8:30 Comedy: The Other Half
9:10 Cosmos
10:00 News in English
10:15 Trapper Jones

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM
& 99 MHz, FM

7:00 Sign on
7:01 Morning Show
7:30 News Bulletin
7:40 Morning Show
10:00 News Headlines
10:03 Morning Show
10:30 30 Minute Theatre
11:00 Signing off
12:00 News Summary
12:03 News Bulletin
12:06 News Summary
12:10 Pop Session
12:13 News Bulletin
12:16 Concert Hour
12:19 Basic Elements of Music
13:00 News Summary
16:03 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 French Pop Stars
17:30 Pop Session

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

GMT
04:00 Newsdesk 04:30 Country Style 04:45 Financial News 04:55 Reflections 05:00 World News: 24 Hours News Summary 05:30 Barbershop Style 05:45 The World Today 06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 A Touch of Genius 07:00 World News: 24 Hours News Summary 07:30 Letter from London 7:40 Book Choice 07:45 Report on Religion 08:00 World News: Reflections 08:15 Operetta 08:30 Take it or Leave it 09:00 World News: British Press Review 09:15 The World Today 09:30 Financial News 09:40 Look Ahead 09:45 Ray Moore's Album Time 10:15 Classical Record Review 10:30 The Red and the Black 11:00 World News: News about Britain 11:15 Listening Post 11:30 Meridian 12:00 Radio Newsreel 12:15 Nature Notebook 12:25 The Farming World 12:45 Sports Round-up 13:00 World News: 24 Hours News Summary 13:30 Radio Theatre 14:15 Report on Religion 14:30 Three Centuries of Italian Opera 15:00 Radio Newsreel 15:15 Outlook 16:00 World News: Commentary 16:15 Star Choice 16:45 The World Today 17:00 World News: Listening Post 17:25 In the Meantime 17:40 Book Choice 17:45 Sports Round-up 18:00 World News: News about Britain 18:15 Radio Newsreel 18:30 Top Twenty 19:00 Outlook 19:30 Stock Market Report: Look Ahead 19:45 Lord of the Flies 20:00 World News: 24 Hours News Summary 20:30 Assignment 21:00 Network

VOICE OF AMERICA

GMT
03:30 The Breakfast Show: 06:30 News, pop music, features, listeners' questions. 17:00 News Roundup: reports, opinion, analyses. 17:30 Dateline 18:00 Special English: news, feature "Space and Man." 18:30 Now Music USA 19:00 News Roundup: reports, opinion, analyses. 19:30 VOA Magazine: Americana, science, culture, letters. 20:00 Special English: news. 20:15 Music USA (1222) 21:00 VOA World Report 22:00 News, Correspondents' reports, background features, media comments, analyses.

AMMAN AIRPORT

NOTE: The following airport arrivals and departures are provided to the Jordan Times by the Air Information department at Amman Airport. Tel. 92203-6. They should always be verified by phone before the arrival or departure of the flight.

ARRIVALS:

6:30 Karachi (PIA)
8:00 Cairo (EA)
8:45 Cairo
8:55 Agaba
9:30 Jeddah
9:40 Dhahran
9:45 Kuwait (KAC)
9:50 Muscat, Dubai
10:10 Beirut
10:15 Abu Dhabi
11:00 Lamaca (CY)
14:00 Jeddah (SV)
14:50 Bucharest (Tarom)
15:50 Kuwait (KAC)
16:30 Cairo
16:45 Paris (AF)
16:45 Bangkok
17:45 Copenhagen, Athens

DEPARTURES:

3:30 Cairo
6:15 Frankfurt (LH)
6:45 Beirut
7:00 Agaba
8:00 Karachi (PIA)
9:00 Rome (Alitalia)
9:00 Cairo (EA)
9:25 Beirut (MEA)
9:30 Athens, Amsterdam (KLM)
10:25 Beirut, Athens (SK)
11:30 Vienna, New York
11:45 Lamaca (CY)
12:00 London
13:00 Cairo
15:00 Jeddah (SV)
16:15 Bucharest (Tarom)
16:30 Kuwait (KAC)
19:00 Kuwait
19:15 Dhahran
19:30 Jeddah
20:15 Muscat, Dubai
20:45 Bahrain, Doha
21:15 Dubai, Ras Al Khaimah
21:15 Cairo (EA)
21:30 Baghdad
22:00 Baghdad
01:00 Baghdad (EA)

EMERGENCIES

DOCTORS:
Amman:
Munsir Al-Qarni 76258
Issam Hawamdeh 33029/62295
Zarga:
Barakat Shahrawi 83038/81795
Irbid:
Saeed Dahmash 3773/72656
PHARMACIES:
Amman:
Nairouh 24672
Al-Jam'ah 44554
Salameh 56779
Shaban 36726

FATTALAH

37140

Zarga:
Al-Wahdab (-)
Irbid:
Al-Shar' 75825
TAXIS:
Asfour 23230
Khalid 23715
Al-Shahid 25095
Sultan 51998

CULTURAL CENTRES

American Centre 41520
British Council 36147-8
French Cultural Centre 37009
Goethe Institute 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre 34049
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Hava Arts Centre 65195
Al Hussein Youth City 67181
Y.W.C.A. 41793
Y.W.M.A. 64251
Amman Municipal Library 30111
University of Jordan Library 84355/84366

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Grand Palace Hotel, 1.30 p.m.
Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 1.30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2.00 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.

MUSEUMS

Military Museum: Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday to Friday. Closed on Saturdays. Tel. 64240.
Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also

PRAYER TIMES

Fajr 5:02
Sunrise 6:29
Dhuhr 11:31
'Asr 2:15
Maghrib 4:32
'Isha 5:59

CHURCHES

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweibdeh 37440
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman 24590
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein 4428
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali 23541
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman 23585
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafiah 75261
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafiah 71331

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

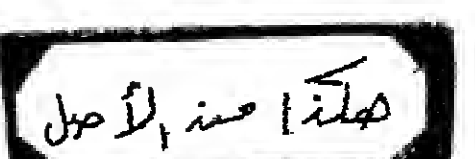
Saudi riyal 98.799/6
Lebanese pound 72.473
Syrian pound 57.558/1
Iraqi dinar 603.3/613.9
Kuwaiti dinar 1196.3/1200.6
Egyptian pound 340.6/348.8
Omani riyal 92.6/93
UAE dirham 91.9/92.3
Omani riyal 970.8/975.8
U.S. dollar 338/340
U.K. sterling 632.4/636.2
W. German mark 148.5/149.4
Swiss franc 183.6/184.7
Italian lire 279.28/1
(for every 100)
French franc 58.759/1
Dutch guilder 158.8/136.6
Swedish crown 80.6/81
Belgian franc 87.0/88.1
Japanese yen 153.5/154.4
(for every 100)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ambulance (government) 75111
Civil Defence rescue 61111
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency) 36381-2
Municipal water service (emergency) 37111-3
Police headquarters 39141
Najdib roving patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency 21111, 37777
Airport information (ALIA) 92205/92206
Jordan Television 71111
Radio Jordan 74111
Fire and rescue 199
Fire headquarters 22090
Cablegram or telegram 18
Telephone:
Information 12
Jordan and Middle East trunk calls 11
Overseas radio and satellite calls 17
Telephone maintenance and repair service 11

MARKET PRICES

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|---------------------|-----|-----|
| Tomatoes | 360 | 200 | Bananas (Mukammal) | 225 | 180 |
| Eggplant | 210 | 140 | Apples (Golden) | 250 | 180 |
| Potatoes (imported) | 180 | 140 | Apples (Dontle Red) | 240 | 200 |
| Marrow (small) | 230 | 180 | Apples (Starken) | 220 | 180 |
| Marrow (large) | 160 | 130 | Lemons | 140 | 100 |
| Cucumber (small) | 260 | 200 | Oranges (Afu surra) | 230 | 180 |
| Cucumber (large) | 180 | 150 | Oranges (Shamoun) | 150 | 120 |
| Hot Green Pepper | 160 | 120 | Oranges (local) | 100 | 80 |
| Sweet Pepper | 180 | 150 | Oranges (French) | 180 | 130 |
| Cabbage | 160 | 130 | Cauliflowers | 280 | 240 |
| Onions (dry) | 100 | 80 | Tangerine | 200 | 150 |
| Green onions | 240 | 200 | Bonani | 180 | 140 |
| Garlic | 550 | 420 | Carrot | 130 | 100 |
| Spinach | 240 | 200 | Turnips | 160 | 120 |
| Coconut (piece) | 400 | 300 | Chestnut | 550 | 480 |
| Beans | 300 | 260 | Grapefruit | 100 | 70 |
| Bananas | 260 | 200 | Beet | 130 | 100 |



SPORTS

Jordan rally given international status

AMMAN, Dec. 15 (Petra) — The Minister of Culture and Youth Ma'an Abu Nowar has said that the Jordan rally has been recognised as an international event by the Paris-based International Federation for Motor Sports (FISA). He explained that the registration will pave the way for international competitors to participate in the annual competition and will no longer be restricted to Jordanian competitors.

The next Jordanian rally will be held on an international level on June, 3-4, 1982.

Nastase ousts McNamara in NSW Open

SYDNEY, Dec. 15 (A.P.) — A slower and uncommitted Ili Nastase today defied his years to oust top seed Peter McNamara in the first round of the \$125,000 Robinsons New South Wales (NSW) tennis Open at White City.

Nastase, now 35 and ranked 72 in the world, produced his famed artistry and flair to inflict a 6-2, 6-4 trouncing on McNamara and throw open the top half of the tournament draw.

None of the seasoned tennis observers could recall the last time a top seed was beaten in the first round of the tournament.

What loomed as a potential opening round minefield materialised for 26-year-old McNamara, who admitted afterwards: "Ilie took me by surprise."

Nastase quipped to the media that he didn't "sleep very well" when he first heard he had been drawn to meet the top seed.

He said it was terrible: "Like

meeting Bjorn Borg or John McEnroe in the first round of a tournament."

While McNamara came to grief with the swirling White City wind, Nastase reeled off his repertoire of chips, dinks and backhand volleys to take command of the one-sided encounter.

Nastase, chasing the \$400,000 Australian Open at Koovong after Christmas, claimed that his three day's familiarisation of grass during the Rio International Challenge in Adelaide last weekend prepared him for today's match.

The years have changed for the four-times masters champion, and winner of the U.S., French and Italian opens.

"I'm now slower and I'm not as well prepared for matches as I was five or 10 years ago," Nastase said.

Then in typical wit, Nastase added that he drinks a lot these days off court.

"I'm still in the tournament so I'll take it easy and have maybe four or five beers a day," Nastase joked.

Muhammad Ali -- 'The Greatest'

NASSAU, Bahamas, Dec. 15 (A.P.) — Muhammad Ali stunned the sports world in the predawn hours of an African morning when he regained the heavyweight championship by knocking out George Foreman.

The eastern sun had almost reached its noontime height when Ali, demonstrating a champion's heart, stopped Joe Frazier after 14 furious rounds to keep the title in the "thrilla in Manila." These performances were gems to be savoured.



Ali leaving the ring after his last defeat by Trevor Berbick in Nassau last Friday night.

The eastern sun had almost reached its noontime height when Ali, demonstrating a champion's heart, stopped Joe Frazier after 14 furious rounds to keep the title in the "thrilla in Manila." These performances were gems to be savoured.

Last Friday night under a Caribbean moon, Ali lost a unanimous 10-round decision to Trevor Berbick in a performance that didn't glitter.

It was a piece of fool's gold mined by a man who before the fight talked about accepting challenges, about winning the title for a fourth time at age 40, 16 years after he won it from Sonny Liston as talkative Cassius Clay, the Louisville lip. Ali will be 40 Jan. 17.

In the weeks before the Berbick fight, Ali worried that maybe the press would not come to his fight against a former Maitre D' on a cruise ship in this stopover for cruise ships.

Reporters came, of course. Ali's been a big story almost from the day he turned pro in 1960 after winning the light heavyweight championship in the Rome Olympics.

But this time they were ambulance-chasing. In the wake of Ali's mismatch loss to Larry Holmes, the World Boxing Council (WBC) champion, Oct. 2, 1980, the possibility that he could be hurt was a strong one.

"I'm magic," he said before the fight. "You know I'm the biggest

thing to ever hit the world."

Ali's last real magic moment in the ring came when he stopped Frazier after 14 rounds of a grueling and exciting fight at Manila in 1975.

He won seven fights after that, but two of them were controversial decisions over Jimmy Young and Ken Norton. He also lost the title to inexperienced Leon Spinks and didn't show much in regaining the World Boxing Association's (WBA) share of the championship from Spinks.

After the second Spinks fight in 1978, Ali retired. But a shot at being champion a fourth time and \$8m brought him back against Holmes.

"I'm the master of illusion," Ali said before that fight. But he fooled himself, not Holmes, losing when he didn't go out for the 11th round.

Ali certainly became one of the biggest things to hit the sports world, and his celebrity did extend over sports boundaries, making him one of the best-known personalities in the world. He could

draw instant crowds of city streets. Kids would approach him and pretend to fight him, and he would play along. A word, an autograph, a handclasp made people beam. He talked to presidents and kings.

A crowd of about 25,000 people showed up at the airport at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to greet Ali for his fight against Joe Bugner in 1975. Thousands chanted "Ali, boom-yay (Ali, kill him)" when he fought Foreman at Kinshasa, Zaire, in 1974.

And while fighting was natural to him, controversy was commonplace.

Ali angered many people when he announced after winning the title from the fearsome Liston in 1964 that he was a black Muslim and that he would be known as Muhammad Ali, not Cassius Clay, "my slave name."

Then he infuriated many Americans on April 28, 1967, when, with the Vietnam war going on, he refused induction into the army. "I ain't got nothing against them Viet Cong," he said.

On June 20, 1967, Ali was convicted of draft evasion, fined \$10,000 and sentenced to five years in prison.

He appealed, but was stripped of championship recognition and banned from the ring. His last fight before that had been a seventh-round knockout of Zora Folley in his ninth title defence, March 22, 1967, in New York.

But Ali's embrace of Islam and his stand against the U.S. government gained him a lot of admirers, too.

While in Kuala Lumpur, he became frightened when surrounded by a large crowd on a visit to a mosque.

He told the Malaysian press that he could not lose because "Allah is in my corner." One night a Chinese cab driver asked a fare, "do you really think Allah is in his corner?"

In 1970, with the climate in the United States changed in connection with the Vietnam war, Ali came back to boxing, stopping Jerry Quarry on a cut in the third round Oct. 26 at Atlanta.

He next beat Oscar Bonavena, then fought for the title against Joe Frazier, who had become champion during Ali's exile. The fight, in which each man got a then-unheard-of \$2.5m, was held March 8, which meant Ali could be champion when he went to prison if the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against his appeal in June.

But Frazier knocked Ali down in the 15th round and won a decision to hand Ali his first loss as a pro.

On June 28, 1971, Ali was leaving a store in Chicago, when the owner ran into the street after him and told him, "I just heard on the radio, the Supreme Court said you're free—an 8-0 vote."

All had perhaps his greatest victory, one that enabled him to go on and write some of the most exciting history in boxing.

He became the second man to win the heavyweight title twice—the other was Floyd Patterson—and the only man to win it three times.

He demonstrated heart, a granite jaw, poise and an artistry.

Ali also announced on at least three occasions that he would out fight again. But while he was able to accept defeat in the ring with grace, he was unable to concede he had been caught and passed by time.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN
1981 by Chicago Tribune

Both vulnerable. East deals.
NORTH
♦ A J 10 5 4
♥ Void
♦ Q 10 2
♠ A Q 8 7 3
WEST
♦ 2
♥ K Q J 9 6 5 3
♦ K 8 4
♠ K 5

EAST
♦ K Q 9 8 6
♥ 10 8 2
♦ 9 5
♠ J 9 4
SOUTH
♦ 7 3
♥ A 7 4
♦ A J 7 6 3
♠ 10 6 2

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass Pass 4♥ Dblc
Pass 5♦ Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♥.

West made his normal lead, and declarer saw that, even if he could develop the club suit for four tricks, he would still require a heart ruff for his eleventh trick. Rather than surrender control of the heart suit, he chose to ruff immediately. He then tried the trump finesse, losing to West's king. West shrewdly shifted to his singleton spade, but declarer was not taken in. He rose with dummy's ace and paused to take stock.

Obviously, declarer could not allow East to obtain the lead, for that defender had a spade to cash. There was only one hope. Declarer overtook dummy's last diamond and drew the remaining trump. He then led a club. Had West produced the king, declarer intended to let him hold the trick. When West played low, declarer finessed the queen and breathed a sigh of relief when it held.

One hurdle remained, but that was surmounted easily. West had shown up with three diamonds and a singleton spade. Since he surely held seven hearts for his vulnerable preempt, that left room for only two clubs. So declarer simply led a low club from dummy. West won the king, but the club suit was now set up. Declarer lost only a trick in each minor suit.

South's fine play had justified his bidding.

Shrewd card-reading by declarer enabled him to overcome a communications problem and bring home a tenuous five diamond contract.

With a relatively balanced hand and good defensive prospects, South might have been wiser to pass for penalties rather than bid five diamonds. He simply had too many possible losers to expect his partner to cover all but two of them.

Seb Coe's record ratified by IAAF

ROME, Dec. 15 (A.P.) — The International Track and Field Federation (IAAF) has ratified British miler Sebastian Coe's world record for the 800 metres as 1:41.73 minutes, secretary-general John Holt said here today.

"The record was first given as 1:41.72, but a closer check of the official timing put it at 1:41.72 and we rounded it to a hundredth of a second higher according to our rules," Holt said. "The other world records ratified included: Mile -

Sebastian Coe, Britain, 3:47.33 minutes. 110-metres hurdles - Renaldo Nehemiah, South Africa, 12.93 seconds. Pole vault - Thierry Vigneron, France, 5.80 metres. 25,000 metres - Toshihiko Seko, Japan, 1:13:55.8 hours. 30,000 metres - Toshihiko Seko, Japan, 1:29:18.8 hours. Women's javelin - Antoaneta Todorova, Bulgaria, 71.88 metres.

Holt said the federation was seeking "further information" before deciding on another two world records.

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Jeff in 150

MIDDLE EAST

In the wake of a legend

Note: This is the first of a two part series on an article taken from World magazine. The article strives to prove that Sindbad's legendary are based on historical facts.

By John Lawton

Photos by Toregeland and Barbara Wace

On a time there really was a Sindbad the Sailor — according to the crew and of the Sohar, a replica of a 7th century Arab dhow that sailed from Oman to China. The point of the voyage was to find Sindbad's legendary wreck in the Red Sea and they certainly proved it was possible. In 1980, a 25-foot dhow built with coconut stiched with medieval navigational instruments, British explorer Timothy Severin set out on a voyage of 25,000 miles from Muscat and Canton. He and his crew, of course, had to cope with the same monsters plagued by his voyages, but they did not face hazards. On several occasions they were nearly swamped by giant tankers; another time a mainmast spar broke; almost a month they were plagued with little food and finally, as they neared the South China Sea, they faced the threat of the voyage took just eight months. In addition, Severin spent some time in research, travel and action during which he wrote the history of Arab sea-

manship back to Egypt and followed its development in places like Oman, China and India.

The first people known to have used the sail were the ancient Egyptians; the earliest record of a sailing boat — a drawing of a ship with a mast amidships and a broad square sail hung from it — dates back to about 3900 B.C. It was an Egyptian who provided the first known mariner's tale: an anonymous first-person account of a shipwreck in the Red Sea around 2000 B.C., in which the mythical embellishments of the Sindbad period are instantly obvious.

"I had set out for the mines of the king in a ship 180 feet long and 60 feet wide; we had a crew of 120, the pick of Egypt. A storm broke and we flew before the wind. The ship went down; of all in it only I survived. I was cast upon an island... then I heard the sound of thunder and thought it was a wave; trees broke and the earth quaked. I uncovered my face and found a serpent. It was 45 feet long and its beard was two feet long. Its body was covered with gold and its eyebrows were real lapis lazuli."

The serpent's looks, it turns out, were deceiving; it was a most considerate creature. It took the sailor tenderly up in its mouth, carried him to its lair, listened sympathetically to his story and then comforted him with the news that one of the Pharaoh's ships would soon come along and take him back home. When the rescue ship, as prophesied, did come along, the serpent sent the sailor off with a cargo of incense, and two months

later he was safely home.

Later, and farther east, the people living on the shores of the Arabian Peninsula also learned to sail and in time discovered that they could earn a profit by risking their lives on the sea. Among them were the boat builders and sailors of Makkan (or Magan) — today's Oman — who traded copper and ivory with Mesopotamia. Copper

they could rely on prevailing winds to carry them eastward in winter and westward in summer across the Indian Ocean. They could not explain these "monsoons," but this is not surprising since even today there are mysteries about them.

One theory is that when the summer heat of India causes the air to rise over the subcontinent, winds from the Indian Ocean rush into the vacuum left by the rising air. By the same token, the comparative coolness of Indian winters causes a reverse movement of winds from India to Africa. Whatever the cause, by the first century A.D. the south Arabian mer-

world's ocean sucked the unwary sailor into oblivion.

For those who did succeed, however, profits were high. Because no European power had ever found a sea route to China, the Arabian role as intermediary in East-West trade grew and flourished. By the middle of the eighth century the flow of such precious goods as gold, ivory and gems from India, and silk and fine porcelain from China, had made Baghdad the most important commercial center in the world, and for the next 500 years Muslim dominance of East-West trade continued.

In the 13th century, however, the Mongols appeared and, conquering China, razed the great port towns. As a consequence, Far East trade waned, and though it continued sporadically for some time, with Arab merchants meeting their Chinese counterparts in Ceylon and Malaya, the heyday of Arab trade with China was over. Partly because of the Mongol destruction, but mostly because, 200 years later, Vasco da Gama, a Portuguese explorer, rounded the Cape of Good Hope and opened a new trade route between Europe and the East.

This voyage, completed in 1448, effectively ended more than 700 years of Arab domination of Eastern trade. Ironically, though, it was an Arab seaman, the great navigator Ahmad Ibn Majid, who guided the Portuguese on the last vital leg of the voyage.

By then, of course, the Arabs had left an indelible mark on Southeast Asia; their dhows had not only carried merchandise, but had also spread Islam and Islamic culture as far as Indonesia and China. By then, too, the intrepid Arab sailors, roaming through 9,600 to 16,000 kilometers of unknown territory, had brought back endless tales of mishaps and adventures — as well as reports of exotic kingdoms bordering the Indian Ocean and China Sea. These stories — repeated, embroidered, expanded and exaggerated — were the basis of the epic of Sindbad the Sailor as immortalized in A Thousand and One Nights.

Until recently, the consensus among scholars was that Sindbad, the world's most famous sailor, never actually existed. The scholars said that the fables spun around him may have been versions of actual exploits and gave examples. One was Sindbad's method of collecting diamonds from a serpent-filled canyon: by dropping chunks of raw metal into

the canyon and retrieving the meat, with gems stuck to them, through the use of large birds. This story, they said, was first told by troops of Alexander the Great returning from India.

Another example was a story of an island that turns out to be a great fish. This tale, as Severin had cause to know, also figures in the life of the Saint Brendan, the medieval navigator-monk; on his voyage to Newfoundland, Saint Brendan and his Irish sailors did exactly what Sindbad did: they aroised the huge creature by lighting fires on its back.

In Oman, however, where the modern Sindbad voyage was launched, some Omanis firmly believe that Sindbad was real. "We believe," said Musalam Ahmad, one of the nine Omanis on Sohar, "that there really was a sailor called 'Sindbad' who had some adventures."

Severin agrees. "The Sindbad chroniclers took one captain and added other adventures to his own," he said, adding that it was this embellishment and expansion of his exploits, that eventually turned Sindbad from a man — "who came from Sohar but operated out of Basra" — into a myth. Severin and the Omanis, in fact, believe this so strongly that they named the dhow that they planned to sail to China Sohar, after the town in Oman where they say Sindbad was born.

In a sense, Severin, a tea planter's son born in India, is the ideal man to explore a world where fact and fantasy mingle. While an undergraduate at Oxford, he rode a motorcycle along Marco Polo's route to China — a trip resulting in his first book Tracking Marco Polo. This was followed by Explorers of the Mississippi — for which he navigated the length of the river by canoe and launch — and four other books on the history of exploration.

Those journeys, however, were just practice for his first major success: sailing an open leather boat across the North Atlantic to show that Irish monks could have been the first Europeans to reach North America, as medieval legends about Ireland's sixth-century Saint Brendan suggested. In a boat of oxhide — a type used by medieval Irish sailors — Severin survived fierce storms off Greenland and a puncturing caused by a small iceberg and then wrote a book about it: The Brendan Voyage which became an international best seller translated into 16 languages.

The Saint Brendan voyage.

Severin says, also led to the Sindbad voyage. "We were sitting off the coast of Newfoundland, when I suddenly realised I had a winner: building and sailing replicas of ancient boats."

But to create public interest, he went on, he also had to have a character like Saint Brendan. "Suddenly," he says, "the figure of Sindbad appeared in my mind."

It was natural. The legendary voyages of the world's best known mariner, never seriously studied before, "were ripe for investigation." On publication of The Brendan Voyage, therefore, Severin began to pore over ancient trading documents, maps, shipwrights' plans and museum exhibits. Later, when his research led him to Oman, he also began to walk the coastline — measuring and sketching the rotting ribs of long-abandoned dhows half buried in the sand.

At first, the Omanis took little notice of the stranger poking around their beaches. "I had written to tell them about my project but apparently they had forgotten," says Severin. But then, on the eve of his departure, he was asked by the ministry of national heritage and culture to give a lecture and showed his audience, which included the minister himself, a film he had made of The Brendan Voyage.

Severin, of course, thought he had finally attracted some attention, but though he was presented with an old Omani sword in appreciation, nothing more was said. Hardly had he returned to his home in County Cork, Ireland, however, when he received a telegram asking him to return immediately to Oman. There, the ministry, with approval of His Majesty Jaboo Bin Said, Sultan of Oman, offered to sponsor Severin's Sindbad project.

"I never actually asked them to sponsor it," says Severin, "they simply decided to do it themselves."

At that point, the research phase ended and the construction phase started. With the help of Omani shipwrights, Severin set about building an authentic replica of the kind of boat Sindbad might have sailed to China over 1,000 years ago. Based on early Arab and Persian sketches and written descriptions of ninth-century, deep-sea trading vessels, he and the shipwrights designed a ship 26 metres long, with a 6.4 metre beam, and two metre draft. It was built of hand-sawn wooden planks sewn together with hand-rolled coconut rope, no nails, and was powered by two triangular

cotton sails, no engine.

They quickly found out, however, that both the materials for such a craft and the craftsmen were scarce. To find both, Severin had to scour the most backward and remote places of the region, where traditional boat-building methods still survive. He found some shipwrights in Oman, for example, but to recruit the rest also had to go to Laccadive Islands, a territory of India off India's western coast. For timber for the hull he had to go to the forests of southern India; there Arab shipwrights of long ago had found and selected their timber and had it hauled out by elephants.

The coconut rope, also from India, was far more difficult to find. As it would be the only thing holding the ship together, it had to be very strong, but most Indian rope makers had long since abandoned the practice of soaking it in seawater — a process once used to give it the strength Severin needed. For weeks, therefore, Severin roamed the west coast of India chewing rope — literally. "People thought I was mad, but it was the only way I could tell it had been soaked in salt water," says Severin.

Finally, from the island of Agatti, came some coconut rope soaked in seawater. But as he was forbidden by government restrictions to go there himself, Severin had to remain on the mainland "tasting" coils of rope sent over by the islanders until he had enough: in all 640 kilometres.

At last, however, Severin was able to assemble his men, his wood and his rope at Sur, on the south-east tip of the Arabian Peninsula. Once one of the busiest boat building and trading towns of the Gulf, Sur, when Severin arrived, was a ghost town in which declining trade with India and East Africa, had forced its traders to sell their boats, and had compelled its famous shipwrights to put away their tools.

The arrival of Tim Severin, his 45-man work force and their tons of materials and supplies soon revived Sur. Spurning modern accommodation, for example, the boat builders chose as their headquarters a 300-year-old, sea front home, empty since the drowning of the owner and his six sons in a sea tragedy 30 years before. Severin and his "green shirts" — so called because of the green smocks his Arab shipwrights wore — gave the rambling, two-storey house a fresh coat of whitewash, moved in and set to work building the Sohar.



The Sohar

was mined in Makkan itself, but the ivory could only have come from India or Africa and the implication seems clear: Omani traders, even in 1000 B.C., probably ventured beyond the Arabian Gulf and sailed the open waters of the ocean.

About 500 B.C. these seamen — the early Arabs — also introduced the dhow: a broad-beamed, shallow-draft vessel with lateen-rigged sails, ideally suited for the coastal waters of the Arabian Gulf and the comparatively mild waves of the Indian Ocean. Although relatively flimsy, it was light and manoeuvrable and could speed quickly out of the path of threatening weather. Its triangular sails, moreover, were designed to catch even the slightest breeze.

The key to their success, however, was the ancient secret of the monsoon winds: the fact that

chants were riding the monsoon winds eastward as far as Ceylon, and by the sixth century, according to one geographer, had established a monopoly of the sea trade with China.

In that era, the 6,000-mile voyage from the Arabian Gulf to China took at least 120 days and was then the longest sea trading route in the world: the ocean equivalent of the old Silk Road. It was probably the most dangerous too, with corsairs from the Hadramaut prowling the Indian Ocean and Vietnamese pirates preying on shipping in the Gulf of Tonkin. Those that survived, or bought off the pirate threat, might still disappear without trace: sunk to the bottom of the sea, wrecked on some lonely, hostile coast or blown completely off course into the Pacific where, the Chinese believed, the drain spout of the

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Leo

Scramble these four Jumbles, star to each square, to form ordinary words.

IIMEN
O O O O O

HOLT
O O O O O

ENNE
O O O O O

PECK
O O O O O

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

WGT: O O O O O TO O O O O O YOU

(Answers tomorrow)

Jumbles: DOUBT HUMID MISLAY GIBBON
Answer: What some people do to get even— ODD THINGS

THE BETTER HALF By Vinson

"Ironic, isn't it? I can't have the phone in my name but the bill comes to you!"

anuts

ONCE THEY GET SCRATCHED OFF MY CHRISTMAS LIST, THEY NEVER GET BACK!

tt 'n' Jeff

SNOW, SNOW, BEAUTIFUL SNOW— COME ON DOWN, GLITTER AND GLOW!

A SNOWFLAKE HERE, A SNOWFLAKE THERE, SNOWFLAKES, SNOWFLAKES, EVERYWHERE!

FALL TO EARTH IN GENTLE WAVES, COVER THE GROUND FOR LITTLE SHAWERS!

HE'S GREAT!

IT'S DEEN! IT!

ly Capp

SORRY—I WAS DOIN' IT AGAIN!

THAT'S OKAY, PET, I LIKE BEING RUSSSED OVER

I SUPPOSE YOUR WIFE'S THE SAME— ALWAYS STRAIGHTENIN' YOUR SCARFAN FLICKIN' BITS OF FASH OFF YOU!

NOT HER!

HER HANDS ARE TOO BUSY HANGIN' ON TO HER HANDBAG!

RUBE— WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE LISTENIN'!

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16, 1981

YOUR DAILY Horoscope
from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The early part of the day is fine for deciding how you want to operate in the future. Make plans for the upcoming holidays. Figure out what obstacles must be overcome.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Although you may want to start on a new project, something else turns up that requires your immediate attention.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) A silent associate suddenly gives the support you need. The planets are most favorable for getting ahead now.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) If you persevere with the work ahead of you, many fine benefits come your way. Be more encouraging to loved one.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Make plans to have increased income in the days ahead. Show your creativity to influential persons.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) You can gain many benefits now by applying yourself more in career matters. Sidestep one who has an eye on your assets.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Listen to what a good friend suggests today and avoid family confrontations. Don't waste time with strangers.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Any monetary matters you have in mind can be worked out to your advantage if you consult an expert for advice.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You have fine ideas now and can make plans that will bring many benefits in the future. Keep busy at the practical.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be sure to complete any work left undone before taking on new work. This can be a fine day for you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A dynamic friend can be of real help to you at this time. Discuss important business matters with an expert.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Talk over with higher-up how to put your talents across more successfully. Maintain a cheerful manner.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Follow advice of a financial expert and gain many benefits in the future. Be sure business affairs are running smoothly.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be one who can benefit from unexpected turns of events and will not be interested in a humdrum existence, so prepare for a good education and success is bound to follow. Don't neglect religious training.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

THE Daily Crossword By Albert L. Misonko

ACROSS
1 Shoestring
5 Frighten
10 Sawney girl
14 Dollar bills
15 Neighbor of Michigan
16 Of planes
17 Booty of a kind
20 Crazy — state
21 Leave out
22 Giggles
23 Moroccan port
25 Aquarium fish
27 Ferryman of the Styx
29 Naap or ebb
30 Alps: abbr.

33 Lease anew
34 Alps —
35 Piled athleta
36 High notes
37 Limb bona
38 Russian ruler
39 Shade tree
40 Scoda
41 Salvador's state
42 "Cold Bug" author
43 Large jug
44 Eams
45 Staub of baseball
47 Frigid
48 Santiago's land
50 Solitude

51 Devotee:
suff.
54 Mathematical testing device
56 Sandarac tree
59 Of a cereal
60 Interdiction
61 Freedom of films
62 Fort —, Florida
63 Pallid

24 War god
25 "— Andronicus"
26 River in Germany
27 Obnoxious one
28 Cheery greeting
29 Florida city
31 Characteristic
32 Shore birds
34 Dry and friable fabric
37 Nonwoven fabric
38 Ancient Irish capital
40 Hebrew prophet
41 Brazilian measure
44 Simpletons
46 Extreme
47 More ghostly
48 Study hard
49 Man of the hour
50 Pratty
52 Adam's boy
53 City in New York
55 — da plume
56 Merry
57 Stowe heroine

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS: DILVE, LIAMIS, SEAIT, BRITS, BIRIAN, PAIPERBLACK, FAIRCE, SPINRIT, TITLY, CDB, LINDA, SOMIE, DYNIA, PAIRS, HERBOLIE, ARA, DILLY, LISSEIS, UNRAVIEL, DICISSIS, LEVITE, MORE, DEW, DEB, BRITAIN, PARE, OVA, STIAG, TAIKLE, TEMPIO, DAREDEVIL, CRIBER, ERIE, MERE, RYEVINA, RAIGS, EISSE.

DOWN: 1 Bolt
2 Celebes ox
3 Man from Managua
4 Tima zone latters
5 Magic user
6 Ancient
7 "I amall —"
8 Pitcher
9 Guiky
10 Lass conda
11 Men of Manchester
12 Dies —
13 Read audiously
18 Mechanical man
19 Fish-eating mammal

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WORLD

Lech Walesa said under house arrest despite reported talks

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 15 (R) — A spokesman for the Solidarity union said here today that union leader Lech Walesa was under house arrest in an unknown location.

Stefan Trzinski, spokesman for the Warsaw branch of the free trade union, said that according to the travellers' reports Mr. Walesa had been seized by the military authorities in the Baltic port of Gdansk on Sunday and flown to Warsaw for talks with Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, Poland's military ruler.

When a state of emergency was declared in Poland on Sunday the authorities rounded up many Solidarity leaders. However, a government spokesman said Mr. Walesa had not been arrested but taken for top-level talks with the authorities and was being treated "with all due respect" as head of Solidarity.

Mr. Trzinski said today that news of Mr. Walesa's arrest came from passengers on the ferry Silesia, which arrived at Nynashamn, near Stockholm, from Gdansk yesterday.

Mr. Trzinski, who is on a private visit to Sweden, told Reuters by telephone that Mr. Walesa had said he would only negotiate with the authorities if he could speak first to his own political advisers and to Poland's Roman Catholic

primate, Cardinal Jozef Glemp. The authorities turned down these conditions, Mr. Walesa refused to talk to Gen. Jaruzelski and he was then placed under house arrest, Mr. Trzinski said. The spokesman did not explain how the travellers he was quoting, described as ordinary people from Gdansk, had obtained this information.

VIENNA, Dec. 15 (R) — Polish authorities reported a disciplined response to martial law in Warsaw today and said factories, shops and transport were operating normally there.

But travellers reaching Sweden by ferry from Poland said the situation in provincial towns was tense and military traffic heavy.

Direct information from Poland was thin, Western news agencies have had their communications from Warsaw cut since yesterday.

Eastern bloc news agencies carried reports from the Polish news agency PAP saying that the situation was calm despite a charge by authorities yesterday that "professional agitators" were trying to foment trouble.

1 Pole, U.S. accomplice sentenced in spy scandal

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 15 (A.P.) — Convicted Polish spy Marian Zacharski was sentenced to life in prison yesterday, and his American co-defendant, William Holden Bell, was sentenced to a maximum of eight years in prison and fined \$10,000.

"I agree with the prosecution that we must say to you, Mr. Zacharski, and those who will follow, that we will not tolerate this," U.S. District Judge David Kenyon said. Zacharski showed no emotion on hearing the sentence.

His lawyer, Edward Stadium, said he does not know if he will appeal the case or whether there is a possibility Zacharski could be traded for an American in Poland.

Zacharski, 30, was convicted last month of conspiracy to commit espionage. He had been posing as a Polish businessman while paying Bell, and aerospace engineer at Hughes Aircraft Corp., for defence secrets.

Bell and Zacharski met while living in the same seaside condominium complex in Playa del Ray.

Bell testified during Zacharski's month-long trial that his spying began in 1978 when he needed extra money to buy his apartment, which was being converted into a condominium.

"I certainly wish I didn't do it, but I did," Bell said during the trial. "I took money from Mr. Zacharski for betraying my country and I'm very ashamed of it."

Bell said he received a total of \$95,000.

Records showed Bell was in debt from the day he started at Hughes in 1952. He filed for bankruptcy in 1976, owing \$20,000 back taxes and nearly \$30,000 in credit card charges, finance company loans and other debts.

In a sidelight to the case, newspaper reports told of a spy novel written by Bell, about a hero working with French agents at the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) request who is double-crossed. A writer who said he was asked to edit the book described the fictional hero as a fantasised version of Bell himself.

1981 Peking congress completes Hua's ouster

PEKING, Dec. 15 (A.P.) — After active criticisms of the government and talk of more power for legislators in last year's session of China's National People's Congress, the 1981 session passed with few ripples.

One major difference was that in 1980, at least nominally, it still was the government of Hua Guofeng, chosen successor of the late chairman Mao Tse-tung.

China's real top leader, Deng Xiaoping, who had hounded back from being purged twice in the turbulent 1966-76 "Cultural Revolution," was easing Hua out, with help from the congress.

The 1980 session took the premier's job away from Hua. In this year's session, which began Nov. 30 and ended Sunday, the Communist Party criticised him for sticking to Mao's unrealistic, overambitious and disruptive "leftist" mistakes and ousted him as party chairman too.

New Premier Zhao Ziyang, a Deng ally, addressed the congress this time, outlining cautious policy of slow economic growth for at least five years and expressing hopes that China would be modestly well off by the year 2000.

A resolution praising Zhao's report for telling the bad as well as the good was passed unanimously, without even any of the handful of abstentions that were recorded on a few other resolutions.

Last year, in a change from past patterns, there were a few dissenting votes on some matters. A government minister had to fend off a flurry of questions on a problem-plagued steel mill project at Baoshan, near Shanghai, and legislators were quoted in the official press as saying it was time for the congress to stand on its own feet as an independent organ of state power.

Chen Haosu, a delegate from the army, said a legislator should reflect his electors' will "rather than merely putting up his hand at meetings" to approve decisions of the Communist Party.

This year's session dealt almost entirely with the economy, and comments quoted in the press praised Zhao's principles of giving priority to agriculture and consumer goods and tightening up on responsibility within the industrial system.

The congress agreed to postpone until next year consideration of a revision of China's 1978 constitution.

One revision issue is expected to be clearer definition of the congress' powers. Foreign analysts say the problem of harmonising these powers with party strength is a difficult one.

Solidarity said last night that strikes were taking place in at least seven parts of Poland and that it was directing operations from the shipyard in Gdansk where it sprang into being last year.

It also claimed troops had ringed occupied factories as an apparent prelude to evicting strikers overnight. There was no mention of such action in the PAP reports today.

East bloc agencies including TASS quoted PAP as saying a strike had been thwarted at the Katowice steel mill and the ring-leaders arrested but it was not clear whether this referred to events today.

PAP said the men, and two others arrested in Lodz while trying to whip up a crowd, would be tried under martial law.

The Polish agency, while acknowledging actions by "counter-revolutionary elements" in some places, said all the big Warsaw factories were working and that supplies of bread and milk to shops were better than yesterday.

The reports of tension came from travellers who arrived at ystad in southern Sweden aboard ferries from Poland today.

The travellers said roadside telegraph wires had been cut in some places and that police had torn down Solidarity posters or daubed them with grey paint.

Military traffic was dense with Polish tanks on the move towards Warsaw and frequent army checkpoints on the roads.

Ole Persson, manager of a Swedish boxing team which was in Wroclaw when the crackdown came, said they crossed several armed roadblocks on the 450 kilometre drive back to the port of Swinoujscie.

"The atmosphere in Wroclaw and in the towns we travelled through yesterday was tense," he said.

He said the team was wakened on Sunday morning by a squadron of military helicopters clattering over their hotel. Boxer Stefan Bengtsson, 19, added: "People we met appeared to be very worried and concerned over the situation."

The ferry is one of the few links left between Poland and the outside world. However, officials at Austria's main refugee camp at Traiskirchen were gearing for a large influx of Polish refugees.

GENEVA, Dec. 15 (A.P.) — Poland's deputy foreign minister remained stranded in Switzerland today by a cutoff of airlinks imposed by Warsaw during his visit.

Contacted about the plans of Marion Dobrosielski, a spokeswoman for the Polish mission said it was not yet known when and how the minister would return. He had attended the Pugwash conference on science and world affairs on the weekend.

She would not disclose the location of Mr. Dobrosielski, who had signed out of the hotel he had been staying in while attending a workshop of Pugwash, a privately organised international forum. Also stranded were the 13 members of a visiting delegation of the Solidarity. A spokesman said all hoped to return to Poland "as soon as possible."

In Moscow, a Soviet overseas operator said today that telephone service between Moscow and Warsaw would be not be restored before next Sunday.

New group to probe Iranian human rights abuses

NEW YORK, Dec. 15 (A.P.) — A group of former U.N. human rights commissioners, seeking to alleviate "the growing crisis of human rights and their denial" under the Iranian revolutionary regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, have formed an international committee for the defence of human rights in Iran.

William Vanden Heuvel, who was deputy permanent U.S. representative to the United Nations when the American hostages were taken in Tehran on Nov. 4, 1979, announced the creation of the committee at a news conference here yesterday. A similar announcement was made in Geneva, he said.

Mr. Vanden Heuvel said: "we must bring to the world's attention ... and especially to the attention of the United Nations, the growing crisis of human rights and their denial in Iran."

Mr. Vanden Heuvel cited reports by Mansour Farhang, once Khomeini's representative on a U.N. commission of inquiry into the hostage-taking and now an exile, who says more than 3,000 people have been executed in Iran since July and 50,000 now are in Iran's prisons.

The committee is planning to hold hearings and ask that the U.N. commission for human rights place the Iranian issue on its agenda. Mr. Vanden Heuvel said.

However, he said he had no illusions that Khomeini would pay attention to the commission.

Pope delivers puritan lecture

VATICAN CITY, Dec. 15 (A.P.) — Pope John Paul II shut the door today on any change in the church's ban on artificial birth control and reaffirmed the practice of prohibiting divorced Catholics who remarry from receiving the sacraments.

In his most comprehensive statement on family issues, the pontiff declared the truth "is not always the same as the majority opinion."

In the 167-page document, the Pope also made these points:

— Catholic education must stress self-control and the "absolute necessity for the virtue of virginity or chastity."

— "Trial marriages" are unacceptable because they demonstrate the "unconvincing nature of carrying out an experiment with human beings."

— Pastors should not turn down couples asking to be married in church for motives which are social rather than religious unless they reject "explicitly and formally what the church intends to do..."

— The church must "tirelessly insist" that the work of women in the home be recognised and respected. "The true advancement of women requires that clear recognition be given to the value of their maternal and family role. The mentality which honours women more for their work outside the home than their work within the family must be overcome."

Afghan rebels blow up Kabul sentry box

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 15 (A.P.) — Afghan urban guerrillas blew up a sentry box outside the United Nations staff house last Thursday in Kabul, the Afghan capital, according to a delayed Western diplomatic report received here today.

There were no injuries in the explosion because the Afghan soldiers normally occupying the guard shelter were at that time inside the U.N. compound, located in the Shauryanau section of the new city, it said.

State witnesses sound silly at Arkansas 'monkey trial'

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas, Dec. 15 (R) — The judge in the Arkansas "monkey trial" lost his temper yesterday with witnesses defending a state law forcing schools to teach "creation science."

Judge William Overton, who has to rule whether it is scientific to teach that man did not descend from the apes, made a series of withering challenges as the state called religious fundamentalists and others to support its law.

When teacher Jimmy Townley asked rhetorically why schools should not teach supernatural creation as well as evolution, the judge broke in and snapped: "because it's not Sunday school."

Teaching religion in state-run schools is forbidden by the U.S. constitution.

Earlier, the judge interrupted testimony by South Carolina chemistry teacher William Morrow after two hours, declaring: "Wait, wait, wait. You have a problem, doctor. I have been sitting here since 10:30 and you have

Riots reported in Nigeria

LAGOS, Dec. 15 (R) — Two people were killed in rioting in Nigeria's northern city of Kano on Sunday, according to eyewitness reports later confirmed by police, the Daily Sketch newspaper said today.

Armed police cordoned off government house in Kano in case of a mob attack, it added. More than 4,000 people died in rioting in Kano last December, and four died in rioting there last July.

The newspaper, which supports the opposition in Lagos, said the latest rioting began shortly after the national convention of the split People's Redemption Party ended last Sunday in Kano.

It said a mob attacked buildings and vehicles, and tore down portraits of the Kano state governor, Albaji Abubakar Rimi. Police said they found two bodies after the riot, had made several arrests, and were investigating the disturbances.

The people's redemption party is split into two factions, one led by Albaji Amino Kano, supporting President Shehu Shagari's National Party, and the other led by Gov. Rimi, supporting the opposition.

Salvadoran troops capture rebel radio

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador, Dec. 15 (A.P.) — Army troops captured the guerrillas' clandestine radio "Venceremos" (we will win) transmitter in a surprise attack during a sweep through the northern province of Morazan, a military spokesman said.

He said the transmitter was captured Saturday evening at a guerrilla base called Joya del Volcancillo about 112 kilometres northeast of the capital.

Loss of the radio, which transmitted for two hours daily and which could be monitored from Mexico to Costa Rica, likely will be a severe blow to the leftists' ability to counteract government publicity campaigns.

The radio station had been off the air for more than a week. Military officials speculated that was because guerrillas had trouble getting cassettes to the transmitter because of the fighting in the area.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Soviet actress allegedly murdered

STANFORD, Connecticut, Dec. 15 (A.P.) — Soviet Actress Zoya Fyodorova died of a single gunshot wound and not of a heart attack in her Moscow apartment, her American son-in-law said today. Frederick Poy, husband of Zoya's daughter Victoria, said a cousin and close friend of the family in Moscow told them by telephone that they saw the death certificate in the city morgue. "It said Zoya was shot once in the back of the head," Poy quoted the cousin as saying, speaking for his wife, whom he described as too grief-stricken to come to the phone. Poy told the Associated Press from his home that the 69-year-old actress not own a gun. "It is ridiculous to think she committed suicide," he added. "We think it was murder."

Sadat residence demolished with others

CAIRO, Dec. 15 (R) — One of the late Egyptian president Anwar Sadat's favourite resthouses, overlooking the Giza pyramids, was demolished today on the orders of his successor, President Hosni Mubarak. Bulldozers razed the resthouse and numerous other chalets dotting the desert plateau which overlooks one of the world's most famed group of monuments. Archaeologists had suggested the sewage system to the chalets may have caused a recent crumbling of the brick foundations of the Sphinx, below the pyramids. Many of the buildings were erected illegally and Mr. Mubarak instructed that the presidential resthouse be demolished to show there was no favouritism in the plan to clean up the plateau.

Explosions cause Pretoria blackout

PRETORIA, Dec. 15 (R) — Five Soviet-made limpet mines exploded at a power station here last night, hacking out a large area of the South African capital, a high police official said today. No one was injured in the blasts, the latest in a series of attacks on power plants and other key installations. But electricity supplies to nine Pretoria suburbs were disrupted and damage was estimated at many thousand rand. Urban guerrillas of the banned African National Congress (ANC), which seeks to overthrow the white government by force, have either claimed responsibility or been blamed for many of more than 20 bomb attacks in South Africa this year.

U.S. paper alleges Cuban sins

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15 (A.P.) — The U.S. State Department yesterday released a 37-page research paper detailing what it called Cuba's effort to coordinate, train and arm violent revolution throughout Central America. The paper says Cuba's role has been to unite disorganised insurgents in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras into forces capable of fighting the governments — and then training into arming the guerrillas and promoting terrorism to weaken the governments.

Fire destroys Nigerian ministry

LAGOS, Dec. 15 (R) — The Nigerian Foreign Ministry's offices were completely destroyed by a fire in the centre of Lagos last night. Eyewitnesses gave conflicting reports about the number of people injured in the blaze which firemen suspect was caused by an electrical fault or short circuit. One fireman said four people had been rescued from the ministry suffering from minor injuries.

U.S. lauds ASEAN Cambodian plan

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec. 15 (A.P.) — The United States fully supports the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) initiative for the formation of a coalition government in Cambodia. U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs Daniel O'Donohue has said. "Our basic policy has been in support of ASEAN and the ASEAN position on Cambodia," he told reporters after talks with Malaysian Foreign Minister Ghazali Shafie. ASEAN — Thailand, Malaysia, The Philippines, Indonesia and Singapore — has called for the removal of all foreign troops from Cambodia and the formation of a government chosen by the Cambodian people in free elections. It supports a coalition of the forces of the ousted Khmer Rouge regime, former head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk and ex-premier Son Sann. However, Mr. O'Donohue said that Washington had no plans to provide military assistance to its guerrillas opposed to the Vietnamese-backed Heng Samrin regime.

Austrians expect Polish tourists to seek asylum

TRAIKIRCHER, Austria, Dec. 15 (R) — Officials at Austria's main refugee camp predict a big influx of Poles in the wake of last weekend's military clampdown.

A flood of asylum-seekers pouring in at a rate of up to 300 a day suddenly subsided after Prime Minister Wojciech Jaruzelski imposed martial law on Poland and effectively sealed the country's borders, camp officials said.

Camp staff, who had been working day and night to cope with the arrivals, welcomed the sudden lull but many now believe hundreds of Poles at present visiting Austria on tourist visas may decide not to return home.

"A mood of shock and depression has settled over the camp. People just lie on their beds waiting," said Karl Radek, director of the Traiskirchen camp which has been bursting at the seams since the Polish exodus started last summer.

"The Polish wave has stopped abruptly. It's not been so quiet here for a long time. But who knows what will happen," he added. This year about 30,000 Poles seeking temporary asylum have passed through Traiskirchen, Europe's largest refugee camp. The majority are now being lodged in more than 60 boarding houses all over Austria.

But 20,000 more are thought to be holidaying in the country and Mr. Radek is convinced most will eventually start lining up at the camp's shabby gates.

"If civil war breaks out in Poland, the exodus to the West will resume and the storm will become a torrent," another camp official said.

Sri Lanka -- pinning almost every hope on a river

By Keith Stafford

MADURA OYA, Sri Lanka — Engineers from Canada and Europe are repeating history in Sri Lanka, following the example of ancient kings who undertook massive water conservation projects across the country to improve irrigation.

Historians credit King Parakramabahu, who died in 1186, with saying not one drop of water on the island should escape to the sea without being used by man.

He supported his own advice by building a huge reservoir, covering nearly 2,400 hectares at the city of Polonnaruwa, in the centre of the country. It is still a source of irrigation water today.

Now, the Sri Lankan government is undertaking an enormous scheme — estimated by the finance ministry to cost \$2 billion — to hold back the waters of the 530 kilometres Mahaweli River, which runs from the tea plantations of the Sri Lankan highlands down to the sea beside the north-eastern port of Trincomalee.

Like many Third World countries, Sri Lanka, formerly known as Ceylon, is plagued by geography and climate which inhibit development, in its case the passage of monsoon rain across the country twice a year.

Between May and July, torrential rain slashes across the south and west of the country, while from December to January deluges fall on the north and east.

These downpours serve only to muddy baked-hard dry topsoil and subsequent rain runs off quickly along the rivers to the sea, with drought following in their wake.

Sri Lanka again this year suffered from serious drought and in August the government estimated half-a-million of the 15 million population were being affected, with food supplies dwindling.

Sri Lanka also faces the rising costs of importing fuels and meagre foreign exchange earnings with which to pay for them. Thus it needs to increase power generation at hydroelectric plants, a need the finance ministry said in a recent report "cannot be overemphasised".

The Mahaweli project is an answer to both major problems and a key to the country's development.

It involves building four dams along the river basin to trap the monsoon rain, with water initially used as power for hydroelectric stations, doubling the country's hydroelectricity generating capacity, and then moved either beyond the dams or through tunnels to adjacent valleys to increase the country's irrigated land by about 4,050 hectares.

The original plan for Sri Lanka's largest ever development project, was for five dams, but had to be reduced because of rising costs.

The largest project is the \$250 million Victoria project partly financed by a £100 million grant by the British government.

British engineering and construction companies are now building a 555-metre long dam rising to 440 metres high across the river as it emerges from the highlands not far from the old capital of Kandy.

The dam will trap about 730 million cubic metres of water, ultimately generating 210 megawatts of hydroelectric power. So far the river has been diverted away from the site and water tunnels are being built to carry water to the power station.

Further downstream, the river will again be delayed on its seaward journey at Kotemale Dam, being built by Swedish companies with the financial support of about 630 million Swedish crowns (\$120 million) from the Swedish government.

This project ran into geological problems due to unstable soils at the original site to the scheme was shifted downstream and now work has started on a planned 200 megawatt power station.

The Madura Oya project here in the eastern part of the river basin, 30 kilometres across swirling dust roads from the nearest town, will create a reservoir for holding irrigation water to feed both the valley below the dam and pipe water through a six kilometres tunnel to an

often parched neighbouring valley.

About 75 Canadians, 200 local staff and 1,500 Sri Lankan workers are involved in the project which is costing 110 million Canadian dollars (\$133 million), with the Canadian government providing a loan of 76 million Canadian dollars (\$92 million).

The work started in Oct. 1980 and Andre Jordan, the Canadian project manager, says he expects to trap monsoon waters flowing down from the highlands after the rains fall towards the end of 1982.

The fourth dam, the Randenigala/Rantambe reservoir, is still at the planning stage, with technical assistance from the West German government.

The dams are the most spectacular part of the project, but the overall plan embraces canals and irrigation channels across the river basin. New associated industries, such as forestry, are being developed, roads laid and prefabricated housing hauled into planned new settlement sites alongside the new water flows.

Financing for these works is coming from Japan, the Netherlands, The World Bank and the Middle East.

Financing so far has been steadily forthcoming for the project, but sheer size of the overall plan is causing some concern. The World Bank has noted it will be exhausting 55 per cent of Sri Lanka's development resources next year.

In July, 17 countries which extend aid to Sri Lanka met in Tokyo and decided to give it 723.44 million Special Drawing Rights, the international currency created by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The Sri Lankan finance minister, Ronnie de Mel, told parliament after the aid announcement the special drawing rights would be worth about \$948 million but warned: "If we are to continue with the massive development programme on which we have embarked we must raise substantial additional resources of our own, chiefly by new taxation. There is no easy road to development."

— Reuters

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